

**George Noble Count Plunkett
Papers**

P79

Introduction	iv
A. RESEARCH AND WRITING	
I. Poetry	
a. Poems published in 'Arrows'	1
b. Poems published in periodicals	1
c. Unpublished poems	2
d. Poems by other writers	4
II. Critical Works	
a. 'Sandro Botticelli'	5
b. Other artists	6
c. The engraver William Baillie	6
d. Ecclesiastical architecture	7
e. Celtic and Christian art forms	7
III. Polemics	
a. Literary and Religious	8
b. Political	8
B. ORGANISATIONS AND SOCIETIES	
I. The Academy of Christian Art	
a. Constitution	10
b. Lectures	10
c. Correspondence	11
II. The National Museum of Science and Art	11
III. An Irish Assembly	11
IV. National Academy for Ireland	12
C. LEGAL PAPERS	
I. Property	12
II. Detention of George Oliver Plunkett, 1922	13

D	POLITICAL MATERIAL	
I.	Manifestos and Reports	12
II.	Political Correspondence	
a.	North Roscommon bye-election, 1917	15
b.	Irish Convention, 1917	15
c.	General political affairs	15
E.	FAMILY AND PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE	
I.	Letters to Josephine Plunkett	
a.	From her husband	17
b.	From her sons	18
c.	From friends	18
II.	Letters to Count Plunkett	
a.	Personal correspondence	19
b.	Literary correspondence	19
F.	PHOTOGRAPHS	20

Introduction

George Noble, Count Plunkett, was born in Dublin in 1851, in his own words, 'of a patrician family impoverished by the political and religious struggles which the Irish Catholics of nationalist opinions suffered'. His title was a papal award, bestowed by Pope Leo XIII in recognition of his work 'for religion, charity and education'.

He was educated at Trinity College Dublin where he studied literature and French. In 1882, while still at college, he founded *Hibernia*, a review of literature and art. He married Josephine Cranny in 1884 and was called to the Bar in 1885 though he never practiced law.

Instead he took an active interest in various Irish cultural societies and institutions. A life member of the Royal Irish Academy, he served as Vice-President on two occasions and represented the Academy on the Nobel Committee for Literature. He gave courses of lectures on Irish archaeology and the history of art in the National Museum of which he became Director [1907-16]. He also served as President of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.

In 1900, Plunkett published *Sandro Botticelli*, a critical re-evaluation of the Renaissance artist. He co-edited M. Stokes's *Early Christian Architecture in Ireland* and did much to popularise French literature. The influence of French poetry on his collection of poems, *Arrows* (1921), is unmistakeable.

Educated partly in Nice, Plunkett worked to foster links between Ireland and France, based on 'the bonds of race, historical relations, and communion of sympathies'. He served on the Committee of the French Congress, founded the Pan-Celtic Society, which included Breton scholars, and lectured in Brussels on Celtic art.

He was a pioneer of the Irish language movement and served as President of the Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language for more than thirty years. He contributed articles on nationalism to *The Nation*, *The Irishman* and *The Flag of Ireland* but did not advocate an anti-constitutional policy until after the 1916 Rising. He stood unsuccessfully as a candidate for the Independent Nationalist Convention in two bye-elections. He was also a member of the Fiscal Reform League, opposing excessive taxation and canvassing for the return of monies wrongfully expropriated from Ireland by the Crown.

Plunkett's sons took part in the 1916 Rising. Joseph Mary Plunkett was executed and his two brothers sentenced to terms of penal servitude. Count Plunkett became a member of the Mansion House Committee, established in 1918 to co-ordinate the activities of the various movements involved in Sinn Féin. He and various other Sinn Féin representatives were arrested on 18 May 1918 and deported to England. Plunkett was interned in Birmingham Jail, accused of 'plotting with Germany'.

He was returned as the Member of Parliament for Roscommon in the 1917 election and, after his release from prison, he served as Minister

for Foreign Affairs in the Republican cabinet; and as Minister for Fine Arts without a seat in cabinet (August 1921–January 1922). He accompanied de Valera to London for the negotiations with Lloyd George in July 1921. Resolutely anti-Treaty, he refused to take his seat in Dáil Éireann although he was returned for Roscommon, 1922–27. He continued to support Sinn Féin after the split with Fianna Fáil.

The papers

These papers were located in a mews building in Heytesbury Lane in 1970 and subsequently given to Rev. Professor F.X. Martin who deposited them with UCAD.

They are for the most part fragmentary and abbreviated notes and *aides-mémoire*. At best, the papers represent a partial documentation of some of Plunkett's interests and pursuits. The bulk of the material relates to his literary and art history interests. There are no papers relating to his political activities beyond a number of published manifestos and drafts of polemics.

While a number of documents detail his connection with various cultural bodies such as the Academy for Christian Art, there is little on the working of such societies.

An intriguing group of documents relate to legal actions, notably the proceedings initiated by Plunkett for the release of his son, George Oliver, from Mountjoy Jail in 1922. There is a complete account of the Supreme Court's deliberations, culminating in the issue of a writ of *habeas corpus* against General Richard Mulcahy, Minister for Defence.

A number of letters to his wife, Josephine, are included as well as letters to her from her sons. These are entirely personal in nature. Plunkett's correspondence with journalists and editors sheds some light on his literary career.

March 2004

A. RESEARCH AND WRITING**I. Poetry**a. Poems published in *Arrows*

- | | | |
|---|-------------|--|
| 1 | undated | Typescript list of 15 poems included in <i>Arrows</i> , indicating the date and place of original publication.
1p |
| 2 | August 1917 | 2 manuscript and one typescript text of 'The Judge'.
12 lines, 3pp |
| 3 | Undated | Manuscript text of 'O blessed gift of poverty'.
12 lines |
| 4 | Undated | Typescript text of 'Mulier secundum animam tuam'.
18 lines |
| 5 | Undated | Manuscript text of 'The Road to Nazareth'.
48 lines, 2pp |
| 6 | Undated | Manuscript text of 'At the foot of the Cross'.
8 lines |
| 7 | Undated | Manuscript text of 'Timuit'.
16 lines |
| 8 | Undated | Manuscript text of 'To Ireland'.
12 lines |
| 9 | Undated | Manuscript text of 'Sursun Corda'.
36 lines, 2pp |

b. Poems published in periodicals

- | | | |
|----|--------------|---|
| 10 | Undated | Manuscript draft and typescript copy of a list of 25 poems not included in <i>Arrows</i> , giving the title of the publication in which they appeared and the date of publication.
2pp |
| 11 | January 1893 | Cutting from <i>The Irish Monthly</i> containing the poem, 'Dreams'.
8 lines |
| 12 | July 1919 | Typescript text of 'The Goose Livers', from the French of Louis Veuillet, published in <i>New Ireland</i> .
14 lines |

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|---|
| 13 | January 1921 | Manuscript and typescript copies of 'The Club Pigeons', after Germain-Lacour, published in <i>Old Ireland</i> .
13 lines, 2pp |
| 14 | May 1921 | Manuscript and typescript copies of 'The Violet's Wish', after Louis Ratisbonne, published in the <i>Catholic Bulletin</i> .
13 lines |
| 15 | January 1922 | Cutting from the <i>Catholic Bulletin</i> containing the poem, 'The little fair-haired one'.
32 lines |
| 16 | February 1922 | Manuscript text of 'Rebirth', after Charles Foster, the Swiss poet, published in <i>New Ireland</i> .
14 lines |
| 17 | August 1922 | Cutting from the <i>Catholic Bulletin</i> and typescript text of 'A scribe's little song', after a Gaelic verse written on the margin of a priscian, from the monastery of St Gall.
9 lines, 2pp |
| 18 | March 1921 | Manuscript text of 'The Conqueror', after José Maria de Heredia, published in <i>Old Ireland</i> .
15 lines |
| 19 | September 1925 | Manuscript text of 'The winter of the ideal' published in the <i>Catholic Bulletin</i> .
1p |
| c. Unpublished poems | | |
| 20 | November 1922 | Manuscript and typescript copies of 'The Poet', after De Musset's 'Impromptu'.
12 lines, 2pp |
| 21 | February 1924 | Manuscript text of 'The Singer', after Gilbert de Voisins.
22 lines |
| 22 | May 1924 | Manuscript text of 'Ira Agni'.
8 lines |
| 23 | Undated | Manuscript incomplete draft of 'All passes, breaks And wearies, says the sage ...' written on an envelope.
6 lines |
| 24 | Undated | Manuscript draft of 'To part is to die a little'.
32 lines |

25	Undated	Typescript text of 'The Seer'.	16 lines
26	Undated	Typescript text of 'The Strongman'.	20 lines
27	Undated	Manuscript text of 'Fodhla'.	16 lines
28	Undated	Manuscript text of 'Urania'.	8 lines
29	Undated	Manuscript text of 'Nöel'.	16 lines
30	Undated	Manuscript text of 'Cor Cordium'.	6 lines
31	Undated	Typescript text of 'Awake'.	8 lines
32	Undated	Typescript text of 'I hear the surges of an ocean cry'.	8 lines
33	Undated	Manuscript text of 'Amor tacitus'.	6 lines
34	Undated	Manuscript text of 'Absence'.	12 lines
35	Undated	Manuscript text of 'I in a dream on the air a picture drew ...'.	12 lines
36	Undated	Manuscript text of 'Yes, I shall track you, thwart your liberty'.	12 lines
37	Undated	Manuscript text of 'Iris'.	12 lines
38	Undated	Typescript text of 'Rachel'.	10 lines
39	Undated	Typescript text of 'An Offering', after Charles Van Lerberghe.	6 lines
40	Undated	Typescript text of 'Each thought is a flower', after Amiel.	14 lines

- 41 Undated Manuscript drafts of 'Pentecost' (18 lines), 'Gloss of St Theresa' (7 lines), 'Prose of St Bernard on the Love of God' (68 lines), and 'The Resurrection', after the prose of Adan de St Victor (46 lines).
6pp
- 42 Undated Manuscript text of 'God's call to Man'.
22 lines
- 43 Undated Manuscript text of 'On the reading of good books'.
9 lines
- 44 Undated Manuscript draft of 'Says Father McCotter'.
20 lines
- 45 Undated Manuscript text of 'Viens, mon âme, allons bien loin', from the French of the Romanian poet, Juli Rajdan.
36 lines, 2pp
- 46 Undated Manuscript text of 'God and Man', written in Birmingham Jail, 'In memory of my father who died in his hundredth year'.
16 lines
- 47 Undated Typescript text of St Francis, after the Portugese of Camoens.
14 lines
- 48 Undated Manuscript text of 'The hymn of St Francis Xavier'.
21 lines

d. Other writers

- 49 Undated Manuscript rough list of writers, mainly poets such as George Darley, from the *Cambridge History of English Literature XIII*.
2pp
- 50 Undated Manuscript text of a poem 'A Christmas Song' by [GO'B?].
24 lines

II. Critical Works

a. *Sandro Botticelli*

- | | | |
|----|--------|---|
| 51 | 1900 | Leaflet publicising <i>Sandro Botticelli</i> and giving details of the nature of Plunkett's analysis. 'He has endeavoured to recall the old life of Florence with its turmoils and excitement ...'. Includes an account of the development of Plunkett's scholarly interest in the artist.
4pp |
| 52 | [1900] | First 2pp of a typescript synopsis of the content of <i>Sandro Botticelli</i> .
2pp |
| 53 | [1900] | Typescript second page of a synopsis or draft preface to the book.
1p |
| 54 | [1900] | Corrected typescript pages containing a resumé of Botticelli's early career. Plunkett speculates on the artistic influences governing Botticelli's development and compares his work with that of his master, Fra Filippo. He stresses the 'community of artistic life between Leonardo and Botticelli'.
8pp |
| 55 | [1900] | Corrected typescript page, numbered 14, discussing Botticelli's <i>Madonna and Child</i> .
1p |
| 56 | [1900] | Corrected typescript page, numbered 23 and 24, concerned with Botticelli's Lemmi frescoes as 'illustrating what might be called the domestic arts of Botticelli's time'.
1p |
| 57 | [1900] | Corrected typescript pages, numbered 35–40, offering a psychological explanation of the visual intensity of Botticelli's 'Inferno' – 'the impetuous desire to externalise in his figures the internal tumults of his passionate soul'.
5pp |
| 58 | [1900] | Dissociated and unnumbered typescript pages giving an account of Botticelli's intimacy with Lorenzo de Medici and his circle, and the strength of the painter's portraits.
7pp |

- 59 [1900] Heavily corrected typescript pages entitled 'Sources of our information respecting Botticelli'. Discusses the paucity of documentation relating to Botticelli, Plunkett relying heavily on references to the artist in the work of contemporary commentators.
2pp
- b. Other artists
- 60 Undated Manuscript biographical notes on Beato Angelico, Renaissance miniaturist.
1p
- 61 Undated Manuscript notes on Fra Angelico with particular reference to his fresco work and his painting, 'The betrayal of Christ'.
5pp
- 62 Undated Manuscript note on the Dominican College at Fiasole where Fra Angelico painted the 'Coronation of Our Lady' and the 'Miracles of St Jerome'.
1p
- 63 Undated Manuscript notes concerning the life of Guido Pietri.
4pp
- 64 Undated Manuscript note on Fra Angelico's decoration of the Sistine Chapel.
1p
- 65 Undated Manuscript notes on portraits by Renaissance artists.
5pp
- 66 Undated Manuscript notes on the work of Taddeo Gaddi and Andrea Orcagna, followers of Giotto. Includes reference to Donatello's restoration of the Duomo Church.
6pp
- c. The engraver William Baillie
- 67 Undated Manuscript notes on the Irish engraver William Baillie including a biographical sketch and details of Baillie's exhibition at Spring Hill in 1774.
2pp

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--|
| 68 | Undated | Manuscript list of engravings by Baillie.
2pp |
| 69 | Undated | Manuscript notes on 'One hundred and thirteen engravings after pictures and drawings in the Earl of Bute's and various other collections by Captain William Baillie', published in 1883.
1p |
| 70 | Undated | Manuscript list of prints and engravings, some executed by Baillie.
1p |
| d. Ecclesiastical architecture | | |
| 71 | Undated | Manuscript notes on notable features of some Irish churches such as the Chancel Arch in St Finian's Church.
2pp |
| 72 | Undated | Manuscript note on the Church of Kildare as the popular designation of the Church of St Brigid.
1p |
| e. Celtic and Christian art forms | | |
| 73 | Undated | Typescript text in French commenting on Irish prehistoric artefacts; on bronze and gold objects; on manuscripts and culture, with particular reference to the holdings of the National Museum.
13pp |
| 74 | Undated | Typescript text in French concerning pre- and post-Christian artefacts in the National Museum; the monastic settlements of Clonfert and Glendalough; and the development of saints' shrines.
16pp |
| 75 | Undated | Typescript text in French containing a critique of Celtic Bronze Age art; and an appraisal of Irish monastic manuscripts.
11pp |

III. Polemics

a. Literary and religious

- 76 Undated Manuscript draft article entitled 'The Irish priests', refuting a statement by George Bernard Shaw that 'Irish Catholics hate their priests with an intensity of which Englishmen have no idea'. Plunkett defends the role of the clergy as social arbiters in Ireland. '...the Irish priests ... are so remarkable in their character that it is very easy for people to believe in them ... I assure you that the Celt will not accept a tyranny which is not for his good.' He discusses the view that attacks on the Catholic church have the object of disarming Protestant opposition to Home Rule, concluding that 'the last man to understand the Catholic Irish Celt will be the Anglo-Irish Protestant. He highlights distorted representations of priests in Anglo-Irish literature, particularly the work of Somerville and Ross.
21pp
- 77 August 1920 Manuscript draft article, sent to the *Catholic Times*, criticising Fr Bernard Kelly's apologia for the executioners of Oliver Plunkett. 'Why does he want to relieve England of the onus of a crime that even Protestant Englishmen have been acknowledging since the atrocity was committed?' Plunkett sees Blessed Oliver as the victim of false charges of an 'Irish plot', with the object of preventing 'a Catholic from reigning at any cost'.
1p
- 78 Undated Typescript draft essay entitled 'Dublin 1795', consisting of a reconstruction of a day in the city, with a tour of contemporary landmarks and encounters with historical personages. 'The Irish Parliament came with a lavish hand to the assistance of the poor. ... Two things only were required to make one of the Parliament and the people of Ireland – first, religious equality, second, Reform'.
34pp
- #### b. Political
- 79 Undated Manuscript fragment on 'the masterly inactivity of the Irish Parliamentary Party'.
1p

- 80 Undated Manuscript draft notes attacking the policy of the Irish Parliamentary Party at Westminster. He accuses the party of a lack of political vision and will, and condemns a craven posture towards 'English ministers who think that they can bind Ireland by bargaining with a few feeble or perverted men'.
1p
- 81 Undated Manuscript draft notes attacking the policy of the Irish Parliamentary Party in supporting British recruitment efforts after the 1916 Rising. Plunkett deplores their 'willingness to sacrifice Ireland to maintain England's supremacy'. They are 'this unhappy parody of a National Party'.
3pp
- 82 Undated Manuscript draft of a satire on John Dillon. 'When he talks at times in the language of Irish Nationalism, he is like the student who maintains a heresy for the sake of argument. But the Master of the Westminster School recognises all the time what an orthodox imperialist the pupil is'.
1p
- 83 Undated Manuscript heavily amended note on price-fixing in Ireland during the First World War, for the benefit of English consumers.
1p
- 84 Undated Manuscript list of quotations from English political theorists, on the structure and competence of the United Kingdom Parliament.
1p
- 85 Undated Manuscript draft note on the 'Imperial Conference' [Anglo-Irish Treaty Negotiations]. Plunkett condemns England's sordid methods and states that 'To wait on the meeting of Imperialists in England would be folly'. Ireland should not accept a constitution along Australian or Canadian lines.
1p
- 86 Undated Manuscript draft of an attack on Timothy Michael Healy [Governor General], Kevin O'Higgins [Minister for Home Affairs] and Richard Mulcahy [Minister for Defence], as the 'most cunning and inhuman F[ree] S[tate] plotters'. He alleges that the Government is intent on suppressing the Republican Party and preventing a general election. He details instances of the internment without trial of Republican sympathisers, notably Dr Con Murphy, Secretary of

the Irish Catholic Appeal Committee.

'The prisons are being crowded not only with active Republicans but with ordinary office workers'.

He criticises the lack of a constructive economic policy, the Government accumulating debts 'with the promise of England's credit to back them; it has declared Peace out of the mouth of English guns'.

2pp

87 Undated

Manuscript draft of a satire on Sir William Byrne. Plunkett suggests that since the King has changed his name from Battenberg to Windsor, to dissociate himself from the German enemy, 'would it not be well for such a faithful servant as you are to repudiate Ireland ... by rejecting the name of a rebellious Gaelic clan?'

1p

B. ORGANISATIONS AND SOCIETIES

I. Academy of Christian Art

a. Constitution

88 Undated

Printed copy of the Constitution of the Academy of Christian Art, whose objects are 'The study of Christian Art, and the diffusion of knowledge regarding its principles and practice'.

2pp

b. Lectures

89 Undated

Typescript lecture notes, with references to slides in the margin, concerning religious art in the Renaissance. Plunkett discusses the work of Fra Angelico and Botticelli. 'Fra Angelico's work is to Botticelli's as the symbol to the reality.'

2pp

c. Correspondence

- 90 26 April 1934 Letter from Plunkett to Mr Byrne, asking for the support of his presence at a lecture he is to give in the Dominican Convent, Donnybrook, Dublin, under the auspices of the Academy.
- 1p

II. The National Museum of Science and Art

- 91 1914 Report of the National Museum for the year 1912–13, from the Director [Plunkett] to the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland. Contains sections on the number of visitors to the Museum, the acquisition of artefacts, and reports from the Keepers of the various Divisions. Mention is made of Plunkett's lecture on 'Some Irish engravers' and an extract is included from His address to the Museums' Conference in Dublin on 9 July 1912. 'To my mind a Museum is more than a system; it is a part of the national life and of the higher qualities of the people to whom it belongs'.
- 28pp

III. The Irish Assembly

- 92 [1917] Copy of the agenda for a meeting of the Irish Assembly, Mansion House, Dublin, 19 April 1917, with Plunkett in the chair. Motions for discussion include 'Consideration of the Government's threat to settle the Irish question by force' and 'Votes of honour (a) in memory of the men who sacrificed their lives for Ireland's liberty, (b) to those at present in prison and in exile for Ireland's cause'.
- 1p

IV. National Academy for Ireland

- 93 1 July 1921 Copy of a minute of the 'Preliminary Academic Meeting of Persons who desire the establishment of a National Institute or Academy', at University College, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin, on 30 June 1921. The object of the proposed body is to be 'the Promotion and Publication of Original and Critical Work, with Research and Invention, in the various departments of Sciences, Letters and Arts'. The proposals of the Committee for the composition and regulation of such a body are included.
1p
- 94 1 July 1921 Letter from Rev Professor Timothy Corcoran, University College Dublin, to Plunkett, concerning their joint efforts to set up a National Academy.. Corcoran requests 'the benefit of your wide views and long experience'. A postscript outlines possible areas for Plunkett's involvement with the Academy.
2pp
- 95 1 July 1921 Copy of a typescript circular letter from Timothy Corcoran, inviting the recipient to serve as a member of the Drafting Committee of the proposed Academy. Includes a list of the persons appointed to the Committee at the meeting held on 30 June 1921.
1p

C LEGAL PAPERS**I. Property**

- 96 29 April 1912 Handwritten deposition of Marie Cranny, 23 Idrone Terrace, Blackrock, Dublin, widow of Dr John Cranny [Josephine Plunkett's brother], made in the High Court Chancery Division, alleging that the Plunketts took over the administration of her late husband's estate. She is now commencing proceedings to secure the administration of the estate.
2pp

II. The Detention of George Oliver Plunkett

- 97 July 1922 Typescript copies of legal papers, including warrants, orders, decisions and affidavits, in the case of the detention of George Oliver Plunkett and his father's application for a writ of *Habeas Corpus*. Incomplete, 2pp missing.
- 18pp

D. POLITICAL MATERIAL**I. Manifestos and Reports**

- 98 January 1898 Copy of Plunkett's address to the electors of the St Stephen's Green Division, offering himself as a candidate for the Convention of Independent Nationalists.
 'I am for Home Rule in Ireland, and for the Independent Parliamentary policy devised and pursued by Charles Stewart Parnell'. He voices his support for the development of a network of local authorities and for the Catholic University; and addresses the need for promoting commercial activity in Dublin.
- 1p
- 99 [1918] Manifesto of Cumann Fear n-Eireann [Irish Nation League], founded in Ulster after the Easter Rising to resist the partition of Ireland. The manifesto refers to the 'Dark threat of conscription' and 'Our fellow countrymen interned in England'.
- 1p
- 100 26 May 1919 Signed agreement between the Boyle [county Roscommon] Branch of the Transport Union and their employers, setting out the basis for the cessation of strike action, picketing and boycotting. Signed also by G.N. Count Plunkett as Arbitrator of the agreement.
- 1p

- 101 8 February 1920 Typescript copy of a report from George Gavan Duffy, Grand Hotel, Paris, concerning English propaganda in French newspapers. Includes cryptic reference to overtures made to him by George Chatterton Hill concerning 'interesting and important propositions'.
3pp
- 102 Undated Typescript copy of a report from George Chatterton Hill, Prinzregentenstrasse 94, Berlin-Wilmersdorf, giving an account of his propaganda activities on behalf of Irish nationalism in Germany during the First World War. He outlines his literary and political contacts and the success of the German-Irish Society in mobilising opinion against England. He presented Ireland's case to the Permanent Bureau of the International Socialist Conference in Stockholm in 1917; founded a branch of the Friends of Irish Freedom; communicated with the Kerensky government in Russia in 1917; and supported Casement's activities in Germany.
12pp
- 103 [1920] Incomplete typescript copy report of a [Departmental report to Dail Eireann] outlines proposals for the development of the Irish language including institutionalised preference for Irish speakers in public appointments and the availability of scholarships for teachers. The report includes detail on the arrest and victimisation of Irish language organisers by 'the army of occupation'.
6pp
- 104 [1922] Handbill condemning the treatment and alleged torture of anti-Treaty prisoners in Mountjoy Jail.
1p
- 105 1927 Copy of the Manifesto from Dail Éireann issued after meeting in session, 10 December 1927, urging 'the young men of Ireland who are loyal to the Republic to train and be ready to take their place in defence of the Republic'.
1p

II. Political Correspondence

a. North Roscommon election, 1917

- 106 February–March 1917 5 letters of congratulation from public bodies such as rural district councils and boards of guardians, to Plunkett on his electoral success. 2 draft handwritten replies.
7pp

b. Irish Convention, 1917

- 107 20 April 1917 Letter from Rev Thomas O’Kelly, Dominick Street, Galway, offering his apologies for having been unable to attend the meeting held the previous day.
1p
- 108 23 April 1917 Letter from William J. Harpur, Ballykelly, New Ross, enquiring about the receipt of a cheque and congratulating Plunkett on ‘the wonderful success of [the] convention’.
2pp
- 109 24 April 1917 Statement of account from The Gaelic Press, printers, to Count Plunkett, 26 Upper Fitzwilliam Street, for work undertaken for the convention.
1p

c. General political affairs

- 110 17 January 1917 Draft handwritten letter from Plunkett to Father O’Flanagan, acknowledging the receipt of his wire. ‘This campaign should set the whole country going on a feasible plan to end for Ireland the party huxtering in London. I am a prisoner in England in effect but the reason of (*sic*) my absence from Roscommon will speak for me to all who are true to the nation’.
1p
- 111 4 April 1917 Handwritten copy of a letter from Plunkett, 26 Upper Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin, to Lady de Ros. ‘I am doing what I can to save Ireland from the moral degradation of alien rule. The whole world condemns and scorns England’s hypocrisy in pretending to fight for “the liberty of small nations” while holding Ireland

against Ireland's will. There is no call to point out to us the tyranny of other nations while we have such a bitter example at home.

You may assure your friend who supposes we are financed by Germany that our movement has no other incentive than the love of liberty. It is a shameful offence to impute corruption against men "rightly struggling to be free" .

2pp

- 112 25 April 1917 Letter from T. F. O'Breslin, Honorary Secretary, A.O.H. Irish American Alliance, O'Rahilly Division, 35 North Great George's Street, Dublin, to the Honorary Secretary, National Organisation of Ireland [Irish Convention] conveying a resolution unanimously passed by the Alliance.
 'That we the members of the AOH Irish American Alliance whole heartedly endorse Count Plunkett's policy and pledge ourselves to give support moral and material to his noble work for Irish independence ...'.
- 1p
- 113 12 July 1917 Letter from M.S. Ó Leannóin, Honorary Secretary, Publicity Committee, Sinn Féin, asking for the return of a draft pamphlet on 'Lloyd George Convention'.
- 1p
- 114 20 March 1918 Letter from an unidentified correspondent, Sligo, asking Plunkett to visit J. Delahunty, Waterford, to give him news of his son in Mountjoy Jail. The writer believes the son's letters were held back by the prison authorities.
- 1p
- 115 23 February 1920 Letter from D[iarmaid] O hEigceartaigh, Secretary, [Dáil Department of Publicity?], enclosing a copy of a recent letter from Paris with an enclosure from Chatterton Hill [See P79/101, 102]; and making arrangements to circulate future letters.
- 1p
- 116 16 November 1931 Letter from H.E.G. Rope, [Mawley in Mercia?], East Britain (*sic*), to 'Dear Count Plunkett'.
 '... the Cosgrave Govt. is certainly a favourer of Masonry, a secret and wicked and anti-Xtian society if ever there was one ...' He is greatly relieved to know that Plunkett is in touch with the P[apal] N[uncio].

'When he declined to receive a deputation I feared it meant that he leaned to C[osgrave] & Co. and the F[ree] S[tate] ..'.

3pp

E. FAMILY AND PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE

I. Letters to Josephine Plunkett

a. From her husband

- 117 [1903] Draft handwritten letter from 'Your loving husband', [written from Cork where Plunkett was an election candidate] mainly referring to the King's forthcoming visit to Ireland.
 'I hear that the Channel Squadron (75 ships?) will be in Queenstown for a week from the 25th July & that the King will be in Cork on 1st August, Saturday, or probably visit it on Monday the 3rd. So we'll have some stir. There [is] 14,000 men on those ships, I understand'.
 1p
- 118 16 June 1903 Copy handwritten letter from 'Your loving husband', Cork, mainly concerning the King's visit to Ireland.
 'By today's Irish Times I see that the King will hold a Levee and a Court on the 22nd and 23rd July in Dublin Castle. The procedure for these is given. One has to apply for summons to the Lord Chamberlain, Dublin Castle'.
 He discusses their both applying.
 2pp
- 119 14 August 1903 Copy handwritten letter from 'Your loving husband', Cork, discussing encounters with 'Two other St Louis men' ... I wonder are all these people trying to make a bit of biz. Out of the thing on their own hook? ... I pray, God bring me out of Cork with some benefit and no discredit!
 1p

b. From her sons

- 120 2 April 1910 Handwritten letter from George Oliver Plunkett, Stonyhurst, Blackburn, Lancs., to his mother, consisting mainly of a lengthy and detailed account with diagrams of mock military manoeuvres in which the school took part. Also discusses arrangements for returning home for the vacation.
5pp
- 121 15 July 1910 Handwritten letter from one of her children at Falcarragh, County Donegal, to Josephine Plunkett. The writer discussed social activities at Cloughaneely College [a Gaeltacht school?]. The Sweeneys have provided him with 'a house, a dark room, a piano, a library, a greyhound to course with, [and] a tame solicitor for breach of promise cases ...'.
4pp

c. From her friends

- 122 19 November 1888 Handwritten letter from William Sutton, Mungret College, Limerick, to Countess Plunkett, offering condolences on the death of her father. He applauds her husband's 'charity for these holy nuns'. 'I don't know how to thank you for y[ou]r kind offer about my niece. It would be a great blessing to for her to get into so good a school'.
4pp
- 123 11 April 1901 Photo-postcard from P.J. O'Grady, Malta, to Countess Plunkett. The card features a very large group of Japanese children with some adults, many in clerical dress. He hopes she arrived home 'happily', and thanks her for the souvenir from Florence.
1 item

II. Letters to George Noble Count Plunkett

a. Personal correspondence

- 124 9 October 1919 Handwritten letter from Mary Elizabeth Handley, Santa Barbara, California, [cousin] to Count Plunkett, thanking him for his assistance in tracing her relatives in Ireland.
‘I was indeed surprised to learn that I was related to one who has done so much to help Ireland and has suffered so much for the cause ...’
4pp
- 125 [1919?] Handwritten note from Count Plunkett, Turner’s Hotel, Cork, to Terence MacSwiney, St Ita’s School, Cork, regretting that he will be unable to see them that day due to an unexpected group of visitors.
1p, envelope
- 126 11 December 1929 Letter from Fr Weldon, Vincentian Fathers, St Joseph’s Church, Tulane Avenue, New Orleans, to ‘Dear Cousin George’, mainly concerned with nems of family members. He congratulates Count Plunkett on the Academy of Christian Art.
‘You must remember, Cousin George, that I left the workshop at 30 years of age to enter the seminary and did not enjoy the higher studies nor finish the classics. Night schools and private study brought me where I am today’.
2pp

b. Literary correspondence

- 127 31 December 1889 Handwritten letter from John Canon O’Hanlon, 3 Leahy Terrace, Irishtown, Dublin, to Count Plunkett, concerning arrangements for the publication of a complete edition of the poems of Thomas Furlong. Plunkett is to edit the volume and write an introductory preface.
2pp
- 128 19 September 1903 Handwritten letter from Augustine Henry [botanist and writer], Mortlake Road, Kew, thanking Plunkett for sending him the volume of *Hibernia* containing an article on forests. Henry requests further material on Irish forests.
‘I am particularly interested in the astonishing and beautiful wood of arbutus and oak at Muckcross, and I wonder where I can get the history of that – (ordinary channels here fail)’.
3pp

- 129 5 September 1904 Handwritten draft copy letter from Plunkett to Lord Mayo [President of the Fiscal Reform League], mainly concerning the Industrial Arts and Crafts Show at the Royal Dublin Society. Plunkett praises the exhibition, 'an arrangement between the Department [of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?] and the Gaelic League. 2pp
- 130 21 February 1914 Handwritten draft copy letter from Plunkett to Mr Dunn, declining to contribute to a proposed book on *The Glories of Ireland*.
'The fact is, I have been, and am, working on a like scheme and on a larger scale than yours'. 1p
- 131 23 March 1922 Handwritten draft copy letter from Plunkett to William George FitzGerald, Gresham Hotel, declining to cooperate in a proposal to publish a work entitled *Ireland a Nation*.
'But the idea of the work is based on something other than the complete freedom of Ireland and *Ireland a Dominion* would be a more suitable name'. 1p
- 132 Undated Handwritten letter from J. Hogan, University College Dublin. Refers cryptically to current events and requests the return of books and papers. 2pp

F. PHOTOGRAPHS

- 133 April 1900 Photograph of seven children, four boys and three girls, in threequarter profile. The boys wear white jumpers and black shorts, the girls wear white smocks. The names of the children are noted on the back as Pádraig, Dónal, Brendan, Máire, Cásca, Plunkett and Shivaun McCormac. 10x8 inches
- 134 Undated Photograph of an idyllic garden scene in sunlight with trees and shrubs on elevated banks leading down to a small lake. A woman wearing a white hat is seated on a wooden walkway across the lake. 4½x2½ inches

- 135 Undated Studio portrait of J.[oseph?] Plunkett, seated in profile, wearing a white shirt.
3½x2 inches
- 136 24 February 1939 Cutting from the *Dublin Evening Mail* of a photograph of four people at a meeting of the Academy of Christian Art. Mr M.J. Jacob, Dr Ethna (*sic*) Byrne, Count Plunkett and Rev Myles Ronan are standing, posed in front of an internal door.
8½x6½ inches