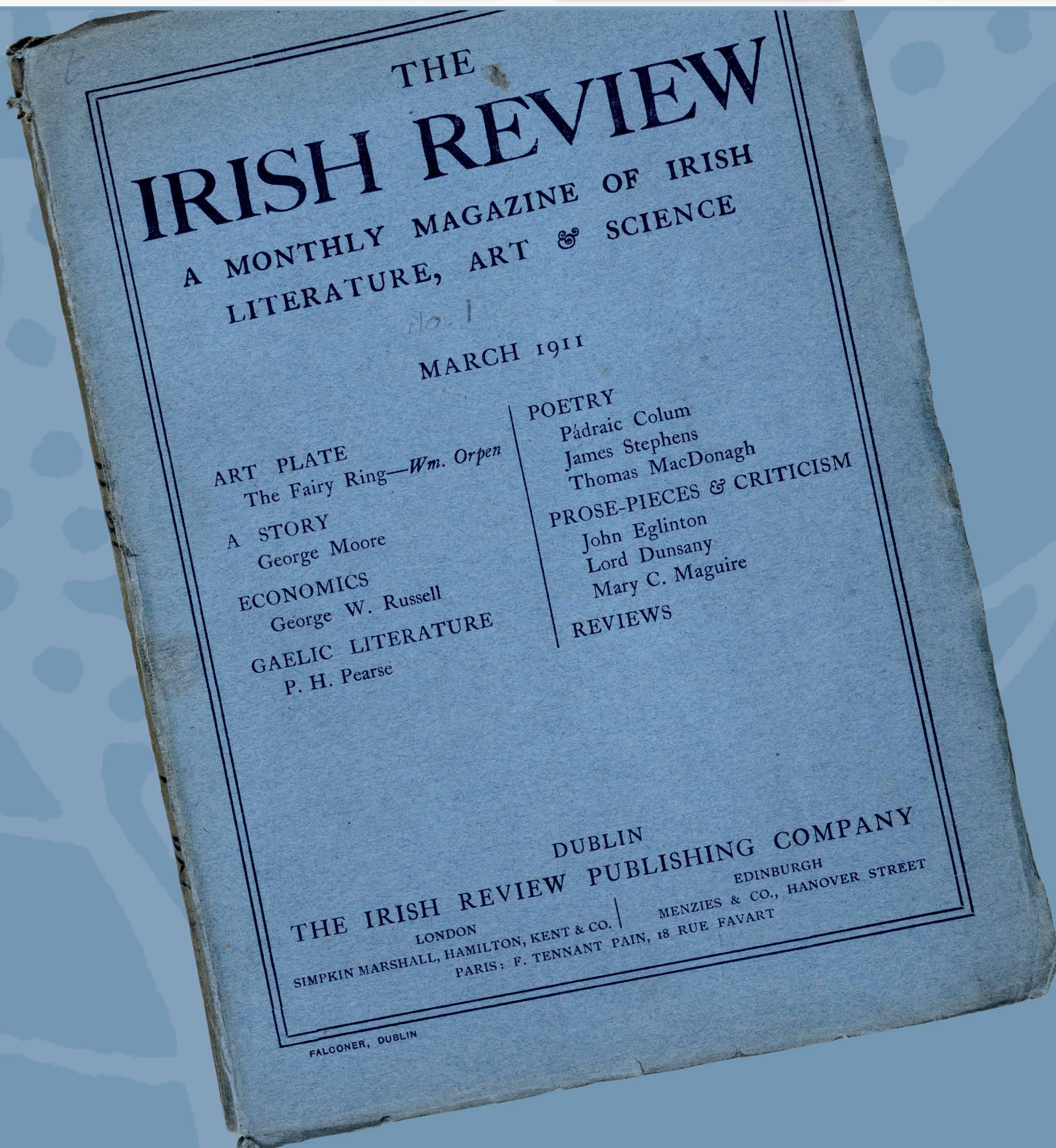
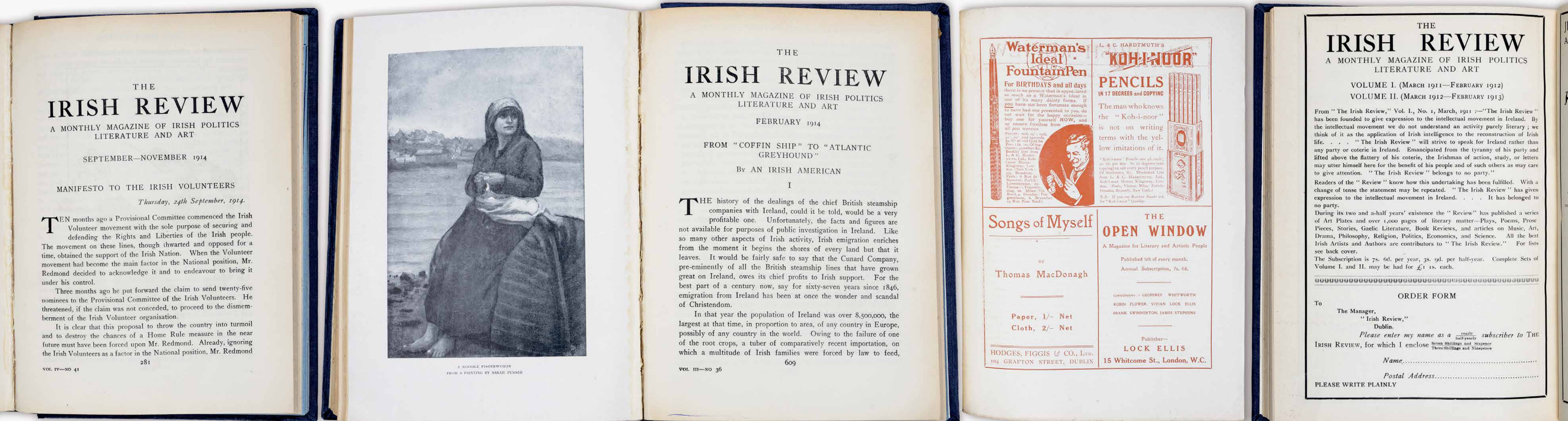


‘A fine magazine’: THE IRISH REVIEW

‘...it’s going to be a fine magazine, its “make up” at least will be better than any other magazine at whatever price and our job is to see that its contents are up to its apparell [sic] ...’ (James Stephens, to Constantine P. Curran, February 8th 1911, UCD Library Special Collections)

The *Irish Review* was an important forum for intellectuals, writers and artists of the Revival period. Set up in March 1911 by James Stephens, Thomas MacDonagh, Padraic Colum, Joseph Mary Plunkett, Mary Colum, and David Houston (also the financial backer for the project), the *Review* was by its own definition “A Monthly Magazine of Irish Literature, Art and Science.” Its revivalist mission was intended as not uniquely a literary endeavour, but rather “the application of Irish intelligence to the reconstruction of Irish life.” For this reason, the *Review* also featured articles on current affairs, agriculture, economics, science and politics. In addition to publishing leading intellectuals of the day, the magazine featured plates by artists such as Jack Yeats, William Orpen, Grace Gifford, Sarah Purser, Wilhelmina Geddes, and others.

The editorship of Stephens and Colum in the first two years of activity made the *Review* a periodical with a strong literary focus. The editorship and proprietorship of Joseph Mary Plunkett from August 1913 onwards altered priorities and transformed the *Review* to “A Monthly Magazine of Irish Politics, Literature and Art” reproducing pieces such as the “Manifesto to the Irish Volunteers.” The magazine ceased publication after November 1914 due to difficulties identified by Plunkett as financial mismanagement, “international complications,” and the fact that all its staff by then was working “full-time and overtime in the Irish Volunteer organisation.”





THE IRISH REVIEW