MANUSCRIPTS

Description and Analysis

397 Great Britain. Commissioners on the public records of Ireland. Reports from the commissioners appointed by His Majesty to execute the measures recommended in an address of the House of commons respecting the public records of Ireland: with supplements and appendixes. London: 1819-1825. 3 v.

Reports on the public records of Ireland: General Repositories, officers of state, Courts of Justice, Cathedrals, universities and colleges, public libraries, public boards etc., for the years 1810-25. Contains valuable indexes and lists relative to the public records of Ireland.


Assembled from the collections of 678 libraries and archives in 395 places in 30 countries, and from over 600 private collections. Entries are divided as: Persons (including institutions, titles, and societies), vols. 1-4; Subjects, vols. 5-6; Places (confined to places in Ireland), vols. 7-8; Dates, vols. 9-10. Vol. 11 contains catalogues of mss., owners of private collections, public collections, Gaelic mss., and non-archival mss. written before 1500. Entries are listed under all appropriate headings.


Lib. has pts. 1-2.

Characteristic representative specimens of documents and facsimiles of writings and transactions of importance in Irish history, or relating to famous persons. Shows various styles of writing and calligraphic ornamentation, with transcripts printed opposite.

400 O'Curry, Eugene. Lectures on the manuscript materials of ancient Irish history. Delivered at the Catholic university of Ireland, during the sessions of 1855 and 1856. Dublin: 1861. xxviii, 722 p.

Lib. also has 1964 reprint ed.

An examination and analysis of the ancient Irish mss. by the 19th century scholar who was probably more familiar with their contents than any other man of his time or before. He deals with lost books, early mss., historic writers (the annalists), genealogies and pedigrees, historic tales, imaginative tales, early Christian Ireland, and ecclesiastical mss. O'Curry concludes with a chapter on how the history of Ireland should be written. Appendices give the originals of quoted passages. There is also a series of facsimiles showing the language and calligraphy of the scribes.

Genealogical and Topographical

401 Genealogical tracts... prepared for publication by Toirdhealbhach 0 Raithbheartaigh. Dublin: 1932

Lib. has vol. 1.

Contains: Introduction to the Book of Genealogies by Dubhaltach Mac Fir Bhisigh (written 1650), consisting of a preface and introduction to his "complete genealogical history of Ireland"; Ancient tract on the distribution of the Aithech-thuatha, or "tributary peoples," including
a story on their origin, a topographical list and a catalog of sept-names; and Lecan miscellany, a
body of genealogical excerpts from the Book of Lecan.

402 Irish Archaeological society, Dublin. The genealogies, tribes, and customs of Fiachrach, commonly
Relates to Northern co. Mayo and western co. Sligo. In three parts: Genealogy (the
traditional descent of Fiachra tribes- A.D. 400); the Hereditary Proprietors; and a Topographical
Poem describing local families before the Norman invasion. O'Donovan's preface contains what
is known about the compiler of the ms. from which the work is taken, Duala MacFirbis.

403- The Tribes and customs of Hy-Many, commonly called O'Kelley's country. Dublin: 1843. 21, 212 p.
Relates to eastern half of co. Galway and southern half of co. Roscommon. Contains the
family history of Maine Mor (c. 400-900 A.D.) and the organization of the O'Kelly lordship. From
the Book of Lecan, compiled c. 1418. A genealogical table of the O'Kelly pedigree is included,
with additional explanatory notes. The preface describes the boundaries of Hy-Many,
based on early mss. Translated and annotated by John O'Donovan.

404 Mulchrone, Kathleen. The book of Lecan. Leabhar Mor Mhic Air Bhisigh Leacain. Reprint of
The Book of Lecan, transcribed from earlier sources, was written by Gilla Isu
MacFirBhisigh and his pupils before 141T. It is of the "Seanchus" type, and contains the "Lebor
Gabala," the succession of Kings, genealogies, and the Dinnshenchas. This is a reprint of the
introduction, which gives a history and description of the ms. and its contents, and of the indexes
of authors, first lines, genealogies, and subjects prepared by Dr. Mulchrone.

Lib. has v. 1.
Pedigrees from the early 12th century Oxford ms., Rawlinson B. 502, with variant
readings from Books of Leinster, Lecan, and Ballymote. Also pedigrees from Book of Leinster
not found in the Rawlinson ms. In Irish, with annotations and indexes of names.

Historical

406 Caithreim Conghaill Clairinghneigh. Martial career of Conghal Claringhneach— ed. for the first time,
with translation, introd., notes, and glossary, by Patrick M. MacSweeney. London: 1904. lxvii,
233, 15 p.
A saga belonging to the pre-Cuchulainn stage of the red branch Cycle, a period of
rebellion against the claims of the Ardrigh over Ulster. Conghal marches on Tara, leading a
revolt against the Ardrigh in the lst century B.C., in which he is victorious. In Irish and English,
with an analysis of the ms., grammar, verbal system, and ms. pagination.

407 Gabhaltas Serluis Mhoir. The conquests of Charlemagne; ed. from the Book of Lismore and
three other velum mss., by Douglas Hyde. London: 1917 (i.e. 1919) 128 p.
A translation of Pseudo-Turpin's chronicle.
Bibliographical footnotes and notes (p. 122-128); Glossary: iii p. at end.
In Irish and English. From a Latin original, the text was written c. 1400 and is
contained in the Book of Lismore. This work is of interest to Irish history since many noted
scholars of Charlemagne's court were of Irish birth, such as his favorite, Alcuin. Furthermore,
MacNeill has demonstrated that Charlemagne's career influenced later Irish kings.

No more published.
Smaller documents illustrative of Irish history and antiquities, such as a poem attributed to St. Columbkille (trans. by O'Donovan), obits of Kilcormick, autograph letters of Thady O'Roddy and of Oliver Cromwell, Irish charters in the Book of Kells, and the annals of Ireland 1443-68. Most of the contents of this volume were contributed by A. Smith, and J. O'Donovan, J.H. Todd, and J. Hardiman.

409 - Tracts relating to Ireland. Dublin. 1841-43. 2 v.

Lib. has vol. 3, i.e. 39, only.
The Leabhar gabhala or Book of Invasions underlies most of the work of the native Irish historians and developed over a period of time. The mss. date from the 11th-15th centuries, and give an account of the successive invasions of Ireland by early colonists. Vol. 3 contains part of the coming of Partholon and the coming of Nemed. These legends have often been believed and written as true history by the annalists and later historians; modern scholarship has variously termed them myths based on racial memories and redactions of early tales by Christian scribes. An important document for the study of Irish historiography.

Includes Reports of the Irish Archaeological Society for 1846 and 1847.
Besides the Liber Britannicus, contains the stories on the Kings of the Romans, the conquest of Ireland, the Adventures of Gaedal, the conquest of the Saxons, the miracles of German, the fortress of Ambrose (Merlin) and his contest with the Druids, the warfare of Gortimer, the wonders of Britain and of Manann, the Picts, and an abridgement of Bede.

A lengthy introduction consists of a description of the mss. used in forming the Irish text, an analysis of the author and age of the work, and a summary of the contents, including topographical and historical comments on the text. The appendices contain the fragment of the work in the Book Leinster, the Chronology and Genealogy of the Munster and Irish Kings during the Scandinavian invasions, a description of the Battle of Clontarf from the Brussels ms., and the genealogy of the Scandinavian chieftains.

Literary

413- Book of Ballymote. The Book of Ballymote. A collection of pieces (prose and verse) in the Irish language, compiled about the beginning of the 15th century, now for the first time published from the original manuscript in the library of the Royal Irish academy ...With introduction, analysis of contents and index, by Robert Atkinson. Dublin: 1887.
A miscellaneous collection in prose and verse, of native documents and translations. The historical fragments are mainly barren poems and prose lists, similar to the genealogies; and the legendary portion is small. More important are the fragment of the Brehon Laws, the
copy of the Dindsenchus, and the metrical and grammatical portions. The translations indicate the influence of classic studies.

A collection of bardic poems dealing with the 'I Eadhra. The O'Hara family of Annaghmore, co. Sligo are the current representatives of that clan. Written 1581-1612 in honor of the chief Cormac (d. 1612). Includes a vocabulary. In English and Irish.

Lib. has vol.: 2, i.e. 28, only.
From ms. in the Franciscan Library in Dublin, this volume contains about half the total matter of the Duanaire. In Middle Irish and English. Introduction discusses the ms. And text, the origin of the Fenian Epic Cycle, the character of the Fenian Epic, and the race and home of Fionn.

Lib. has Vol. 1, i.e. 20, only.
"The Contention of the Bards" arose from an argument between the court poets of the North with those of the South in the 17th century over the superiority of the line of "Eremon" vs. that of "Eber." Introduction discusses the poets who took part in the contention, the mss., meter and grammar, and references to books, poems, battles, poets, and trees. Vol. 1 of the set has poems 1-30. The number of poems included as part of the "contention" varies with individual mss. This is an important collection of Bardic poetry.

Lib. has fascs. 1-5 in 1 Vol.
Fasc. 2 contains "Poems on the O'Donnells 1200-1600," in Irish only. Fasc. 5 is "A Mediaeval Handbook of Gynaecology and Midwifery," in Irish and Latin. The other volumes offer transcripts of various texts: saints' lives, Kings of Ireland, ecclesiastical writings, the legendary heroes, etc. The aim of the series is the presentation of texts not previously published.

Two stories of the "Wonder-voyage" type, connected with the Arthurian cycle of mythological heroes. Arthur is only a secondary character in these tales, which have a distinctively Irish flavor. Macalister in his translation has "aimed at nothing more than giving the contents of the Irish in passable English," spelling conforms to Dineen's Dictionary.

Poets: v. 1, p. 27-36.
Bibliography included in "Contractions": v.2, p. 347.
Bardic poems taken from the Duanaire by seanchan son of Maolmhuire b Maolchonaire, and other ms. sources. Includes vocabulary, name indexes, and genealogies.

420 Meyer, Kuno, comp. and tr. *Selections from ancient Irish poetry.*
London: 1911. xvi, 113 p.
Meyer's translations of the ancient Irish poetry on myths, saga, religion, and nature; bardic poetry, "miscellaneous," and various quatrains; "From the Triads of Ireland," and "From the Instructions of King Cormac." With a brief account of the literature from which the poems are taken, by Meyer.

Edited and translated, with notes, glossary, etc., by Gordon Quin.
Dublin: 1939. xl, 262, 1 p.
This work was adapted from an extant, dated Anglo-French source, Raoul Lefevre's "Recueil des Histoires de Troyes," printed in 1478. Quin discusses the Irish adapter's treatment of the source, the Anglo-French version, language, ms. and scribe, translator, source, date, and proper names. The text deals with the exploits of Hercules; in this story Lefevre (and thus Stair Ercuil) made several changes in classic tradition. Both the Recueil and Stair Ercuil are unique among medieval Troy-legends in giving a detailed history of Hercules.

422 Vergilius Maro, Publius. *Imtheachta Aeniasa. The Irish Aeneid;* being a translation, made before A.D. 1400, of the XII books of *virgil's Aenid into Gaelic.* The Irish text, with translation into English, introduction, vocabulary, and notes, by Rev. George Calder.
The "Irish Aeneid" is taken from the Book of Ballymote. It is basically identical with the "Aeneid" except that all matters peculiarly Roman, such as genealogies, are omitted. There are some additions from Irish literature also. Contains a vocabulary and indexes of persons and places.

423 Ainsworth, John, ed. *The Inchiquin manuscripts.*
Calendar of O'Brien family papers. Primarily estate and family archives, valuable to the study of local and family history, socio-economic conditions, and place names. No medieval documents and virtually nothing about major figures and events such as the "great earl" of Thomond, the siege of Bunratty, or the departure of the "Wild Geese" under Clare. Earliest documents dated 1558, most are 17th-18th century. Sparse footnotes.

424 Brady, William Maziere. *The McGillycuddy papers; a selection from the family archives of "the McGillycuddy of the Reeks, @ with an introductory memoir; being a contribution to the history of the county of Kerry.*
A selection from the McGillycuddy family papers, in chronological order, which illustrates the method by which the estates of an Irish Chieftain were partly preserved for his descendants, despite confiscation under Elizabeth I, the Act of Settlement, and other legal difficulties to which Irish property was exposed.

Mss. preserved in the Castle of Lismore, co. Waterford, which compose the family muniments, inherited by the Dukes of Devonshire, as representative of the Earls.
of Cork and Burlington. First series contains autobiographical notes, remembrances, and diaries (i.e. personal mss.) and the second series selections from private and public (or state) correspondence of Sir Richard Boyle, first and "Great" Earl of Cork (1566-1643).

   Letters selected from the Essex correspondence to illustrate the condition of Ireland and the personal character of Essex. Covers the period of Essex's Viceroyalty of Ireland from 1672 - 1679. Includes letters to and by Essex, official and private; as well as official dispatches (primarily from Arlington, Williamson, and Henry Coventry.)

   The Essex correspondence is a valuable tool for the study of English and Irish history of the period, as well as Presbyterianism, Parliamentary relations, and the monarchy.

   Material connected with the administration of Sir William Fitzwilliam as vice-treasurer and receiver-general in Ireland. Expenses connected with army matters are particularly prominent, as Fitzwilliam was also treasurer-at-war. Also information relating to leases of property of dissolved religious houses.


   Lib. has v. 1 only.
   Portions of the Ormonde Archives extending from the 16th to the 18th century. Includes address from Kilkenny and Tipperary to Henry VIII; Royal letters (Edward VI through Queen Anne); Peer's letters (earliest from the Earls of Sussex and Essex, 1573); Letters and papers connected with Ireland in the reigns of Elizabeth I, James I, Charles I, Charles II, and James II, 1573-1703; Letters of Colonel Audley Mervyn, 1644-45; Letters and papers, 1651-1711; "Verses," i.e. Latin, English and French anagrams, chronograms, elegies, epigrams, epitaphs, and satires, mainly on persons who had relations with Ireland; documents relating to array in Ireland 1598-1651; Duke of Ormonde's register of military commissions, warrants and orders 1661-1666; array in Ireland 1662-82, 1684-86; and Mountjoy's account of Ordnance, arms and ammunition in Ireland, 1684.,

The Carew family had large possessions in Munster. Vol. 1 has a life of Sir Peter Carew, and mss. dating from 1515-74. Vol. 2, 1575-88; Vol. 3, 1589-1600; Vol. 4, 1601-3; Vol. 5, 1603-24. Vol. 6 has miscellaneous papers of Sir George Carew, and contains The Book of Howth (valuable for personal anecdotes) and Bray's The Conquest of Ireland.


Contains correspondence (the most valuable of which are the letters from Mme. da Cunha) from 1707 to 1788; rentals from ledgers of the estate accounts (1705-31 and 1756-69, with the 4th Viscounts' Book of Observations, the estate in Leinster, and excerpts from the 19th century); estate accounts 1724-78; legal documents (mostly related to the forfeiture of the estate in 1691 and resulting encumbrances); and miscellaneous (a Book of Hours, patents, wills, and the Kenmare Pedigree).


Classified as rentals, accounts, and miscellaneous, and related mainly to the Carew family whose 18th century seat was Castleboro. Includes a pedigree beginning with Robert Carew, of Welsh extraction, who settled in Ireland and died about 1673. Rentals covered are co. Wexford, 1740-58, 1780-98, and 1811-37; and Waterford 1744-63 and 1780-1816. Accounts are from Woodstown and Castleboro 1746-82 and miscellaneous. The miscellaneous section has Memorandum Book 1672-77 and 1704-27; Servants' Book 1770-93; Dysart Rents 1798-1809; and documents 1740-1840.


Relates chiefly to the period 1660-1689 - approximately from the Restoration to the Williamite War. Letters written to the Dowager Countess are the connecting link in the series. The papers are of varied nature, and include those of official or semiofficial character. Much about 17th century life can be learned from these papers; agriculture, travelling, and the postal system are among such aspects. Majority of the matter is condensed.


A collection of more than seven hundred deeds relative to the property of the Dowdall family in co. Louth from the late 13th century to the end of the 17th century. Of great interest because of the long time period covered, these deeds are valuable to the study of conveyancing, the marriage settlement, genealogies and topography.


These documents, extending from 1172 to 1603, contain valuable information on such subjects as internal administration, court proceedings, socio-economics, manorial organization, early Tudor rule and expansion of English authority under Henry VIII, relation of the chiefs to the Crown, the Reformation, and Tyrone's Revolt. Important for genealogical, topographical, and linguistic studies as well as for the study of medieval Irish history.

437 Orrery, Roger Boyle, lst earl of. A collection of the state letters of the Rt. Hon. Roger Boyle, the first earl of Orrery... containing a series of correspondence between the Duke of Ormonde and his Lordship, from the restoration to the year 1668. together with... the Life of the Earl of Orrery. By the Rev. Mr. Thomas Morrice. Dublin: 1743. 2 v.

The letters of Orrery, who became one of Cromwell's most trusted friends and advisors. He served Richard Cromwell for a time, but ultimately favored and worked for the Restoration, becoming President of Munster under Charles II. Prefixed by a memoir of the Earl's life by his chaplain, these letters contain a series of correspondence between Orrery and the Duke of Ormonde between the Restoration and 1668.