

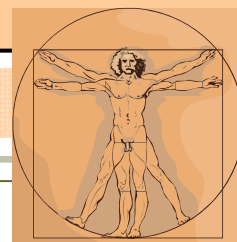
ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

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TRINITY COLLEGE LIBRARY

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Irish Research eLibrary - Impact Survey 2009 – Arlene Healy, Sub-Librarian (arlene.healy@tcd.ie)

Since 2004 the Irish Research eLibrary (IReL) has delivered over 22,000 journals and 40,000 e-books to the desktops of researchers at the seven Irish universities and the Royal College of Surgeons (RCSI). IReL is currently funded by the Higher Education Authority and Science Foundation Ireland until the end of 2009. Funding from 2010 onwards is not yet in place and the Irish university libraries and RCSI are conducting a survey to establish the impact of IReL. A high response rate for this survey is very important; **low participation could be viewed as a lack of interest in continued access to IReL.**

Dr David Lloyd, Dean of Research notes: "The greatly increased availability of a wide range of electronic research publications through the IReL initiative has been a significant element in facilitating research in College. It will be important to measure and demonstrate the value of this resource through the impact survey."

The survey is brief and will take **less than 5 minutes** to complete.

The questionnaire is at

<http://websurveyor.net/wsb.dll/11820/irelog.htm>

House of Commons Parliamentary Papers - Seán Hughes, Subject Librarian for History (sean.hughes@tcd.ie)

The parliamentary papers of the UK House of Commons are invaluable primary sources for the study of Britain, Ireland (prior to partition), Northern Ireland, and the British Empire/Commonwealth, including its relationships with the independent Irish state. The complex structure and indexing of the printed papers have often inhibited access to their riches. In response, the Library has purchased the online **House of Commons Parliamentary Papers**.

Our subscription encompasses the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first century components, with 9.4 million pages and searchable full text. While HCCP does not include Hansard or daily business papers, it is not merely restricted to bills, acts and committee reports. Some of its most rewarding documents are the Command Papers (government documents brought to the attention of the House by 'command' of the Crown). Many Command Papers contain illuminating statistical tables and maps - through HCCP, the scholar can now view these in high-resolution images. In addition, HCCP also helpfully allows searching by paper number; by using a paper number provided in a citation, e.g. 'Cmd. 1326', the scholar can readily access

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full text, in this case, the 1921 command paper 'Intercourse between Bolshevism and Sinn Fein'. Many will welcome the incorporation into HCCP of Peter Cockton's famous Subject Catalogue, an important tool for identifying nineteenth-century parliamentary papers. However, Cockton has some well-known limitations, especially in the indexing of Irish material: for example, contrast the rich subheadings for the Church of England with the Church of Ireland's lone subheading of 'disestablishment'. Any lack in Cockton and the shortcomings in twentieth-century subject indexing) can be effectively countered in HCCP through careful use of keyword searching. Very usefully, HCCP permits citations to be exported directly to EndNote libraries.

The Collected Photographs of J.M. Synge – Jane Lawson, Metadata Librarian, Digital Resources & Imaging Services (lawsonb@tcd.ie)

John Millington Synge, the Irish playwright best known for *The Playboy of the Western World* was born in Rathfarnham in 1871. An alumnus of Trinity College Dublin, he graduated with a focus in Irish and continued his interest of Irish antiquities with numerous visits to the Aran Islands. Over several summers, Synge mastered the language and collected Irish folklore, which became a prominent feature in his writing. During this period, Synge took photographs of the islands off the west of Ireland and his home county of Wicklow.

My wallet of photographs: the collected photographs of J. M. Synge, arranged and introduced by Lilo Stephens (Dublin: Dolmen Editions, 1971) is one of the Digital Resources and Imaging Services projects this month. In this edition, Lilo Stephens (wife of Edward Stephens, nephew and biographer of Synge) published images compiled from negatives bequeathed to her late husband.

Lilo noted in the introduction, "I am not qualified to discuss the quality of Synge's work as a photographer, but I have found his choice of subjects of absorbing interest. I suggest that these photographs were taken to increase J.M's page 1

knowledge and understanding of people. The camera was used to produce a visual record of the types of people he brought to life in his literary and dramatic works." The glass plate and celluloid negatives of these photographs were donated to the Manuscripts Department and have been digitally recaptured illuminating previously unseen subtleties. Access to these originals must be sought from the Keeper of Manuscripts, Trinity College Library Dublin. mscripts@tcd.ie

Modern material in Early Printed Books – Helen Beaney, Library Executive, Early Printed Books (beaneyh@tcd.ie)

One of the most frequently asked questions in Trinity College Library is "Why must this modern book be read in the Department of Early Printed Books?" There are several possible explanations for this, all covered by the fact that the full title of the department is The Department of Early Printed Books and Special Collections.

Special Collections covers a very wide range. Any printed material which is particularly valuable or vulnerable can come under this heading. It includes limited editions of up to 500 copies; all signed items; books published by private press; Anglo-Irish literature; any item or collection donated directly to the Department; and, more recently, the Irish Archival copy of books received by legal deposit. Certain pamphlets, particularly those from World War II, are valuable; and certain periodicals, especially those with coloured plates such as *Country Life*, are vulnerable, as are first editions of bestselling books such as the Harry Potter series. Restricting their use to the EPB Reading Room will preserve these items for generations of future scholars.

On the open shelves in the EPB Reading Room is a collection of modern reference books. Most of these are shelved here because they are on the subjects covered by the term 'historical bibliography' – all aspects of the history of book production, as well as selling, collecting and reading books; there is also a small section on the history of Trinity College Dublin, and a range of catalogues of other libraries around the world, particularly those with noted collections of incunabula and early printed books.

The papers of the playwright Tom Murphy - Meadhbh Murphy, Assistant Librarian, Manuscripts Department (murphm21@tcd.ie)

The papers of the internationally renowned playwright and author Tom Murphy (born 1935) have recently been fully catalogued and are now available to researchers, staff and students.

The collection covers the majority of Tom Murphy's creative career, from the late 1940s to the end of the 1990s. It starts with Murphy's first dabbling in prose at the age of 14 with the unpublished novel 'Unexpected Adventure'. The final piece of written work contained in the collection is that of the play *A Little Love, A Little Kiss* published in 1999. Tom Murphy

created up to 15 drafts both in manuscript and typescript form for each produced play, with up to 40 individual drafts being produced for the play *Conversations on a Homecoming*. This collection highlights what long and arduous process playwrights undertake to produce a finished piece of work.

Among his best known plays is *A Whistle in the Dark*. On its debut in London in 1961 it caused considerable controversy both there and in Ireland due to its graphic portrayal of the level of violence and alcohol abuse present in the Irish immigrant community. Other well known plays are *Conversations on a Homecoming*, *The Gigli Concert*, *The Sanctuary Lamp* and *The Morning After Optimism*. Tom Murphy has published one novel *The Seduction of Morality* (1994). The collection also emphasises how both the critic's and public's opinion weighs heavy on the playwright's mind, with Tom Murphy cutting out, photocopying, gathering and collecting magazine articles, news paper reviews, radio transcripts and correspondence that commented in any way on his works, over 1400 items in total.

Tom Murphy is a very significant and influential figure in modern Irish literature and his papers are a valuable addition to the literary collections in Trinity College Dublin.

Electronic Enlightenment – Brian O'Connell, Subject Librarian for Religions & Philosophy (brian.oconnell@tcd.ie)

Enlightenment from the Oxford University Press, a database of correspondence of major Enlightenment figures spanning mainly the eighteenth century and overlapping backwards to the 17th and forwards to the 19th centuries. The database is based on about forty print collections of correspondence. These were originally published by OUP. In addition there are earlier print editions by other presses which include items mainly in English, French and German. All the great Enlightenment figures are represented including Berkeley, Swift etc. The current release is from January 2009.

The great strength of this new research tool is its use of recent technology to enable searching and browsing of the texts of the correspondence of these important figures both individually and in relation to each other. There is extensive hyperlinking revealing connections in the content of documents in different collections as well as their relationship to manuscript, print and biographical sources. Searching can be done within a particular collection or across collections both thematically and for persons. The letters of both writer and recipient can be quickly surveyed in their multiple relationships. There is extensive functionality available by means of side and top menu bars as well as within the text. OUP also invite scholarly readers to contribute to the database.

There is an full collection of related biographies, encyclopedias, dictionaries and newspapers for online consultation available from the 'Links' feature on the horizontal menu including the 18th century volume of the famed *Encyclopédie ou Dictionnaire Universel des Arts et des Sciences* as well as entire Oxford published book series in the field. This is an essential tool for all those involved in Enlightenment and related scholarship in the Arts, Humanities and History of Science.