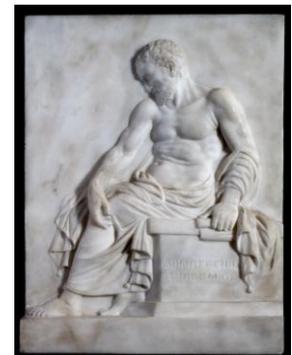
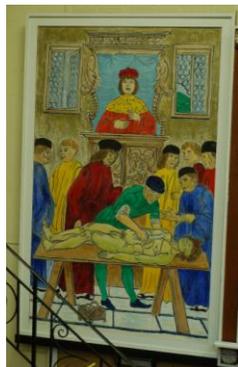


Trinity College, Dublin

The Academic and Artistic Collections – a summary



First produced February 2010; contact and website updates March 2016

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NOTE: There will be updates to this document to include the collections held at the Department of Physics, the Department of Chemistry, and a more detailed entry on the Silver Collection.

This document was compiled by Catherine Giltrap, Curator of the College Art Collections, with the assistance of Dr. Zuleika Rodgers, Curator of the Weingreen Museum, and the generous donation of time of each curator in the composition of the collections descriptions.

Introduction

Catherine Giltrap, Curator of the University Art Collections, Trinity College Dublin



The Dublin University Museum, 1777-1876, Regent House

Universities are optimally positioned to fulfil what has become the new role of museums in general – a forum for debate, for the exchange, communication and initiation of ideas, and a coming together of people. At Trinity College Dublin the wealth of disciplines, range and availability of specialised knowledge and expertise, combined with a mixture of experienced and younger enquiring minds distinguishes this as an institution that is simultaneously of its cultural context but also freer, to some extent, to be more experimental and creative.

The spectacular Long Room within The Old Library has, for 300 years, served as the main communicative interface for Trinity's creative and cultural achievements and events. There exists an additional wealth of material culture in the form of the College's specialised teaching collections acting as important resources that are also directly in contact with the core business of College - research and teaching. These are mainly cared for in an honorary capacity by dedicated individuals in related disciplines. Together with the Library collections, they embody Trinity's rich heritage, representing 400 years of its place at the centre of Irish and international intellectual and cultural life. The unique nature of these collections in relation to their public counterparts is that they have emerged from an essentially research-driven quest for knowledge and a desire to disseminate and develop this knowledge primarily for didactic and scholarly purposes.

In the special case of university collections, scholarship and stewardship ideally complement each other in order to both preserve and develop these unique primary resources. Historically, a number of the Trinity teaching collections were sited in dedicated locations, and, in some situations, buildings were designed to specifically house them. For example, from 1777 until 1875, the Anatomy and Natural History Collections (including what are now defined as the Geological and Zoological Collections) were displayed together in 'The Dublin University Museum', located in Regent House above the principal West Front entrance to the College. Between 1857 and 1876, these collections were transferred to purpose-built teaching, research and display facilities in the form of the Museum Building specially designed by Deane and Woodward, the Anatomy Building and the separate Zoology Building. The Anatomical Museum and linked space for practical investigation, the Dissecting Room, were deemed so modern and functional that they were described by

Provost Mahaffy in his history of College as presenting “none of the dinginess so generally characteristic of rooms of the kind.” A 19th century fascination with objects as the embodiments of knowledge resulted in the design of optimal facilities for the storage, display and conservation of teaching collections worldwide.

The latter half of the 20th century witnessed a pedagogical paradigm shift away from the use of objects to represent fact, particularly in relation to scientific education. This was mainly generated by research developments at molecular, and subsequently nano level which could not be expressed at this time through collections. However, towards the end of the last century, object based learning experienced a revival aided by, and as a complement to, virtual learning and the visualisation of both the macro and micro levels of research. Object collections are no longer solely perceived as strict representations of fact but are employed individually or together to challenge accepted knowledge, and hopefully, to inspire new ways of thinking.

The Anatomy Museum



www.medicine.tcd.ie/anatomy

1. Collection description

The anatomy department of TCD has 4 unique collections of human remains:

- i. The Anthropological collection consists of skulls donated to the department during the 19th Century.
- ii. The Pathological museum collection which is 18th Century in origin
- iii. The Collection of Disarticulated Bones used for undergraduate teaching
- iv. The Collection of Human Anatomical Dissections

The Museum:

The Anatomy Museum is located in the Anatomy Building at the east end of College. On the ground floor and gallery, the following human remains from the Pathological collection are displayed: William Clarke, born 1677 Cork, Myositis officans, Sir Edward Barry 1737 letter; Cornelius Magrath 1736-1760 Co. Tipperary, Acromegaly, featured in a recent book: 'Acromegaly' by der Lely et al, 2005. Also displayed are: 2 pathological skeletons 1 showing Paget's disease and 1 Acromegaly; 2 other full skeletons: 1 Malaysian, 1 Australian; 47 Human Skulls; 11 mandibles; 4 maxillae; 10 skulls of various primates.

Human Anatomical Preparations:

Also in the museum are 74 glass display jars of dissected human anatomy stored in solution. Some of these dissections were carried out by Professor Daniel J Cunningham*, author of Cunningham's Textbook of Anatomy and Cunningham's Manual of Practical Anatomy. Other artefacts include casts of various skulls, 16 casts of cranio cerebral topography by D.J. Cunningham, and casts of Piltdown Man.

The Dissection Room:

Professor Cecil Erskine, Professor of Anatomy, 1947 to 1984, painted and sculpted many art pieces for the Dissecting Room and Lecture Theatre. These were done during the early 1950's coinciding with refurbishment of the Lecture Theatre and Dissecting Room: 11 Large canvas painting, copies of Vesalius' drawings, 3 of which are of skeletons and 11 depict the muscles of the body classically posed. In addition, there are 2 Large sculptures: 1 male, 1 female, 2 copper panels 1 male 1 group, and 1 Plaque of Professor Daniel J. Cunningham, (1850- 1909) Professor of Anatomy TCD 1883 – 1903.

The Lecture Theatre:

Two large paintings by Professor Erskine are displayed on either side of the teaching board in the 19th century lecture theatre. They depict an anatomy scene, 'The Professor's Chair', the first illustration to appear in an anatomy textbook by Mondino of Lucca 1315, and which is repeated three times across ten panels each side of the 19th century lecture theatre. The original artwork was a woodcut, by Johannes de Ketham. In addition, there are two representations of Roman copies of ancient Greek statues, one is the Venus de

Milo, the other is the *Apoxyomenos*. These statues were originally displayed at the centre of the Dissection Room.

2. Provenance

The collections mostly date from the 18th and 19th century, some having specific provenance histories while others are less well known and are indicative of a historical method of research. At the end of 2009, 3 Maori mummified heads and a full skeleton from this collection were returned to the National Museum of New Zealand to honour the Maori wish to return these remains to their homeland and eventually to direct descendants, where possible. This gesture embodies the ethical paradigm shift in the approach to studying anatomy introduced in the 20th century.

3. Use of Collection in Teaching, Research, Outreach

Most of the collection is used in teaching undergraduates and some post-graduate students of the Health Science Faculty. It is also a unique teaching resource for anyone researching osteo-archeology and pathology. Regular requests for access to the collections by researchers and surgeons are facilitated. The Collection of Human Anatomical Dissections is on display in our museum building and is used to teach undergraduates.

4. College Collection links: Current ethics preclude human remains being displayed among other artefacts. There are links with the College Art Collections in terms of the portraits representing key figures from the history of the department and the art integrated into the building for teaching purposes that were produced by Professor Erskine.

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The College Art Collections



www.tcd.ie/artcollections

1. Collection description

Trinity College Dublin represents a tradition of commissioning and collecting art that is at least 300 years old, with the earliest known record of the existence of paintings dating to 1710. The collections predate those of the Royal Dublin Society, founded in 1731, and the establishment of the National Gallery of Ireland, founded by an Act of Parliament in 1854 and opened in 1864. The collections represent in the main, painting, print, sculpture, and statuary, with a significant historical focus on portraiture. The modern collection, initiated in 1959 by George Dawson, Genetics professor, introduced the 'College Gallery' hire scheme, whereby original Irish and international artworks along with original prints and artist's posters were actively acquired for display in student and staff rooms on campus to encourage an interest in, and a critical eye for, modern and contemporary art. The collections consist of approximately 1,200 artworks distributed in public and private locations throughout the main and satellite campuses, including the Provost's House, the Old Library, the Dining Hall, the Arts and Hamilton Buildings, schools, departments, key offices, and the teaching facilities at St. James' and Tallaght Hospitals. The College Silver collection will be under the care of the art curator in the near future. For further information please consult *Paintings and Sculptures in Trinity College Dublin* by Anne Crookshank and David Webb (Dublin: Trinity College Dublin Press, 1990 – currently out of print but available in libraries), *The Modern Art Collection Trinity College Dublin* compiled by David Scott (Dublin: Trinity College Dublin Press, 1989- on sale in the Trinity College Library Shop), and *The Silver Collection Trinity College Dublin* by Douglas Bennett (Dublin: Trinity College Dublin Press, 1988). Work is ongoing to make the collections database available online in the future.

Provenance

Up until the mid-twentieth century, the main method of collecting was by portrait commission, and donation or bequest. Paintings and sculptures of this era mainly represent figures that were active in, or inspirational to, the University's development. The portraits are important as a commemoration of these people and their achievements, and they equally form a record of Irish and international painting, taste, and political attitudes. Significant donations, bequests, and funded acquisitions include the Madden, Gilbert, and Webb bequests; George Dawson's many donations and final bequest; the acquisition of the internationally significant Moore, Calder and Pomodoro sculptures; and the Gordon Lambert donation of 8 Victor Vasarely prints in cooperation with IMMA. Significant loans include the Gulbenkian Foundation 20 year, 24 picture loan of the first original modern Irish and international artworks used in the College Gallery art hire scheme; the 16 Jack B. Yeats paintings; and the significant loan of 20th century Irish art to TRIARC. Many artists, alumni, and other supporters of College, such as The Arts Council of Ireland, have donated or

funded the purchase of artworks, and, during the latter half of the 20th century, the Trinity College Dublin Association and Trust provided the initial College Gallery art acquisition fund and continues to support the collections in terms of conservation and internships.

2. Use of collection in Teaching, Research, and Outreach

The 20th century introduced the study of fine art at Trinity College. Like many universities worldwide, the 1960s witnessed the establishment of a Department of the History of Art and Architecture. By 1966, Professor George Dawson's promotion of the interests and challenges of modern and contemporary art had inspired a formal education programme in art and architectural appreciation headed by Professor Anne Crookshank, hailing from the Ulster Museum. During the 1960s and '70s, Dawson also recruited an informal cross-disciplinary group of volunteer students, the 'College Gallery Committee', staging exhibitions of emerging and established artists both on and off campus, purchasing artworks, and encouraging discerning appreciation. In 1967, the Berkeley Library opened with a specially designed Exhibition Hall by Paul Koralek, funded by The Gulbenkian Foundation, among others. The 1969 Pablo Picasso exhibition, staged while the artist was still alive, was the first display of his art in Ireland. The university forum demonstrated an ability to showcase creativity that was still too challenging for external cultural institutions. By 1978, The Douglas Hyde Gallery opened its doors at Trinity College, championed mainly by Professor Dawson with the help of key alumni and the College Board. The gallery welcomed multidisciplinary exhibitions until the early 1980s when the Arts Council promoted the current focused contemporary art exhibition programme that has shaped Irish visual arts practice.

In 2007, the post of Curator was established, continuing in a more formal capacity the dedicated work of past curators, academics, and administrators ongoing during the latter half of the twentieth century. This has enabled preparation for the integration of the art collections as a more formal resource for the core business of College, in particular by involvement in the planning process for the new College-wide Strategic Plan. During 2010, celebratory events for the 50th anniversary of the modern collections will trigger the start of a programme of outreach to both the campus audience and the wider community.

3. Collections links

The art collections have links with many of the other College collections, mostly through portraits of significant researchers in the history of the College. There are also potential links that could be created in more abstract terms through interdisciplinary interests in the creative process, subject matter, technique, and the science and technology of media used by artists. Beyond the university, works by the artists represented are to be found in the collections of the National Gallery of Ireland, The Dublin City Gallery – the Hugh Lane, the Irish Museum of Modern Art, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Contemporary Art Museum in Lisbon, Portugal and many other international collections.

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The Herbarium



www.tcd.ie/Botany/herbarium

The zoological, geological and herbarium collections are in the School of Natural Sciences.

1. Collection description

The TCD herbarium was established in 1840; its nucleus was the personal collection of Thomas Coulter, the first curator. However, the Herbarium is mainly the creation of William Henry Harvey who was curator from 1844 until his death in 1866. His own hard-work combined with an ability to make and keep friends, including for example, Charles Darwin. This, together with his extensive exploration of Australia, North America and South Africa led to the accumulation of 100,000 specimens by the mid 19th Century including material of Darwin's. After Harvey's death the herbarium continued to accumulate material, notably that of A.F.G. Kerr, a medical graduate of Trinity College from Co. Leitrim, who was the first (and is still the most important) plant collector to work in the tropical forests of Thailand.

The existing herbarium building was added as an annex to the School of Botany in 1910. Prior to that, the Herbarium had been housed in No. 5 Trinity College. The official designation of the herbarium in *Index Herbariorum* is 'TCD'; this latter work also summarizes some of the information presented here.

On a world-scale the TCD herbarium ranks as of exceptionally high importance because of the unique material it contains including collections of great historic importance amassed by Coulter, Harvey, Kerr and later workers. The Herbarium's holdings are large (ca. 300,000 sheets) and significant by international standards (for example it holds the biggest collection of algae in Ireland and one of the biggest of any University herbarium anywhere in the world).

2. Provenance

Webb (1991) shows that the largest collections of material in the Herbarium are from Europe, South Africa, Australia, South-east Asia, South America and North America; though all regions of the world, including Antarctica are represented. Since Webb's paper considerable expansion of the Herbarium has taken place; its library is even better and is amongst the best of its type in Europe; the collections have been considerably expanded with a large number of modern collections from Thailand incorporated.

3. Use of Collection in Teaching, Research, Outreach

The TCD herbarium is a significant resource in Irish terms containing a significant part of the heritage of the country. Its specimens are essential to base-line study of the Irish, European

and tropical vegetation and flora and are used for undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and research by students and staff of TCD and other 3rd level and second level institutions in Ireland and by many national and overseas visitors who come to consult its collections and library. There are a large number of published works on the herbarium – which collectively indicate its importance – see <http://www.tcd.ie/Botany/herbarium/references.php>

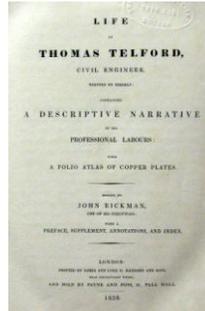
4. Collection links

The herbarium links to the College's Geological and Zoological Museums and other herbaria worldwide – including especially, the herbaria of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh; the University of Aberdeen; the Natural History Museum (London); the University of Aarhus; the Forest Herbarium, Bangkok, the University of Leiden; the Missouri Botanical Garden; the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Paris) and many others – see <http://sciweb.nybg.org/science2/IndexHerbariorum.asp>

Significant elements of the collection have been digitised and databased using funding obtained from the Mellon Foundation and are available on-line from from the Jstor plant section (<http://plants.jstor.org>) where you can browse by geography, plant name or herbarium.

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Civil Engineering Heritage Archive



www.tcd.ie/civileng/research/heritage

1. Collection description

The Archive consists of a catalogued collection of over 1,600 books relating to the history of civil engineering and engineering biography; a collection of periodicals, notably the Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Transactions of the Institution of Civil Engineers of Ireland, the Transactions of the Institution of Engineers of Ireland, and the Engineers Journal; an historical collection of Surveying and Drafting instruments (approx. 100 items dating from 1720 to 1990); miscellaneous historical material in the form of papers, pamphlets and reports. The Archive is located in the Department of Civil, Structural & Environmental Engineering on the top floor of the Museum Building.

The Archive also houses the National Civil Engineering Heritage Database that comprises brief records of all major civil engineering structures in the Republic of Ireland, such as roads, bridges and viaducts, canals and aqueducts, railway infrastructure, docks, harbours and lighthouses, water supplies and drainage.

2. Provenance

The catalogue of the book collection (regularly updated and published) records the source of each item in the collection. The provenance of most of the items in the instrument collection has been proven and the instruments have been included in published inventories of historic Irish scientific instruments.

3. Use of Collection in Teaching, Research, Outreach

The purpose of the Archive is to house and maintain a collection of books, periodicals and archival material relating to civil engineering and related subjects of interest to the departmental staff and students in support of teaching and project work and generally to aid research into the historical background of civil engineering subjects.

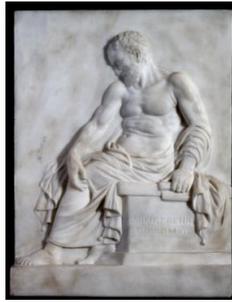
Research enquiries from state and semi-state bodies, local authorities, heritage and conservation groups, and individual members of the public, are dealt with on a regular basis by the archivist.

4. College Collection links

The archive maintains links with other archives notably that of the national professional engineering body, Engineers Ireland, the Irish Architectural Archive, and that of the Industrial heritage Association of Ireland, all of which are currently housed at 45 Merrion Square, Dublin 2. There is also a strong link with the Library and Archives of the Institution of Civil Engineers in London.

Contact: Dr. Ron Cox rcox@tcd.ie

The Classics Department Collection



www.tcd.ie/Classics/

1. Collection description

The bulk of the coin collection is made up of late Republican silver coins and a full set of imperial bronze issues up to the late 3rd century AD.

Other items in the Department include:

- Demosthenes Relief
- Several portrait bust reliefs
- Sculpture of Mithras emerging from a rock. A unique sculpture which has been much illustrated but never published comprehensively. The piece carries an original Latin inscription,; modern inscription on back reads:

Ex donis

F. Hill M.D.

Academiae Dublin: Alumni

et

Med:Profes. Regii

2. Provenance

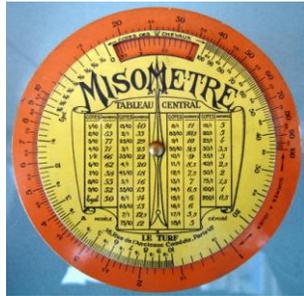
This coin collection came about as a result of mainly 19th century donations and comprises approximately 1,000 Greek and Roman silver and bronze coins.

3. Use of collection in research, teaching, outreach

Dr. Matthew Ponting from Liverpool University and Dr Janathan Williams from the British Museum have both given an assessment of the collection as a very useful teaching tool, with potential for research in terms of metallurgical analysis in particular. The coins are used for undergraduate teaching.

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The Computer Science Collection



www.scss.fcd.ie/SCSSTreasuresCatalog

1. Collection description

The collection is located in 4 display cabinets the Atrium of the O'Reilly Institute and one in the foyer.

It consists of two major components:

1. Artefacts, manuals etc. of College computing before and after the first electronic computer was installed in June 1962. The oldest object is a circular slide rule invented in 1913 by Dr. W. E. Lilly, Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering.
2. A collection of a wide variety of calculating instruments, manuals and books, collected by John G. Byrne over many years with a view towards illustrating what computing was like before the electronic computer.

2. Provenance

College and John G. Byrne

3. Use of Collection in Teaching, Research, Outreach

A principal aim is to show students what computing was like before the electronic computer and to display items associated with the early electronic computers in College. It is hoped that it will be used in teaching and research. School visits are a possibility. Visits by interested groups are a possibility.

4. College Collection links

There are some links with the collection in Civil Engineering at Trinity.

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Geological Museum



www.tcd.ie/Geology/museum

The zoological, geological and herbarium collections are in the School of Natural Sciences.

1. Collection description

The Geological Museum is located on the top floor of the Museum Building, in the Department of Geology. It contains some 200,000 specimens of rocks, minerals, fossils, meteorites and models, as well as photographic materials, and archives relating to the collections.

The Museum is a successor of the Dublin University Museum founded in 1777. In 1857 it was housed in a large gallery specially designed by Deane and Woodward in the newly opened Museum Building. Its collections were used primarily for teaching in the School of Engineering, of which Geology was then a constituent part. By 1953 Geology was an independent discipline and Department and the large Museum Gallery was split up, vertically and horizontally for teaching space. The new Gallery was moved at that time to its present location. At the present the collections include approximately 500 type specimens which are of critical scientific and taxonomic importance.

2. Provenance

The collection includes material from Ireland, Britain and worldwide, as well as extraterrestrial meteorites. Some early collections include mineral and rock collections purchased by the College prior to 1800 and documented in an early catalogue of 1808. The College purchased an important mineral collection assembled by the parliamentarian the Hon. George Knox in 1823, and later acquired the collections of the Geological Society of Dublin in the mid-1800s. It was bequeathed the valuable mineral collection of John Joly in 1933. Since the 1950s most of the accessions have been as a result of scientific research carried out by members of the academic staff and their students.

3. Use of Collection in Teaching, Research, Outreach

The collections and Museum Gallery serve several purposes. It is a research collection and material is often lent to bona fide researchers worldwide, and TCD students and staff continue to draw on the collections for research. The type collections are particularly important in this respect. The collections are used in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programmes. A great deal of research on the history of the collections has been published by the present Curator. Outreach plays an important part in the work of the Curator of the Geological Museum. Last year a scheme for schools was organized through the museum and every primary school in Ireland was provided with a set of six rock types, an explanatory booklet, four large posters on the geology of Ireland and an activity book on rocks and fossils. The Museum works with the Trinity Access Project (TAP) in TCD, is part of

the Heritage Week programmes, and frequently hosts tours for school and other groups. The Museum maintains close links with the wider geological community in Ireland and in particular with the National Museum of Ireland, and the Ulster Museum. Its staff have been heavily involved with the Geological Curators' Group, a worldwide organization aimed at improving the status of geological collections.

4. College Collection links

Some minerals from the collection are used in the current Book of Kells exhibition. The Museum has links with collections in both the College Herbarium and the Zoological Museum, as also with the National Museum of Ireland and the Geological Survey of Ireland.

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The Weingreen Museum



www.tcd.ie/nmes/weingreen-museum

1. Collection description

Jacob Weingreen was educated at Trinity College Dublin where he went on to hold the Erasmus Smith's Chair of Hebrew from 1937 to 1978. He achieved a first class moderatorship, a moderatorship prize and a gold medal in 1929, in spite of his not having formal secondary level schooling. In 1931 he was awarded a PhD for a study of ancient Jewish education. Generations of scholars have used his *Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew*, published in 1939, and it is still to found on the shelves of booksellers throughout the English-speaking world. The museum holds over 2,000 objects, which encompass the Eastern Mediterranean world and extends eastwards as far as the Tigris and Mesopotamia. Its chronological expanse ranges from 9th millennium BC Jericho to 16th and 17th-century AD Torah Scrolls. The Museum is located on Level 5 of the Arts Building.

2. Provenance

The Museum is the only substantial university collection of Middle Eastern material in Ireland and its formation mirrors the political dynamics of Trinity College, Dublin in the 19th and 20th century. In essence, the museum is the legacy of a lineage of powerful provosts and influential professors who were closely involved in its formation. The collection can be associated with characters of social and political rank, academic weight and artistic vigour.

3. Use of Collection in Teaching, Research, Outreach

Artefacts from the Weingreen collection are central to the Department's undergraduate teaching about the history and cultures of the ancient Near East, as well as being employed by those teaching archaeological method in modules for Ancient History and Archaeology. Graduate students and interested upper-level UGs gain valuable practical curatorial skills by assisting with the maintenance of the Museum as well as mounting exhibitions and acting as guides for visiting groups.

Pieces from the collection have been published and we receive a number of requests each year from international scholars who wish to examine and include our artifacts in their research. The collection is of further importance with regard to TCD's intellectual and cultural heritage because it is in many ways a tribute to the tradition of "Oriental Studies" at TCD, and has direct links with renowned Trinity alumni and emeriti such as the leading Assyriologist Edward Hincks and John Mason Harden, political figures such as Crookshank and can be associated with pioneering archaeological giants such as Layard, Dame Kathleen Kenyon, Crystal Bennett, James Leslie Starkey and Sir Arthur Evans. It is also a physical testimony to the achievements of a host of Trinity College Dublin's Emeriti such as Hincks, Harden, Weingreen and Crookshank.

Another important aspect of the collection is outreach. As a unique resource in Ireland, we are visited regularly by school groups and historical societies. Unlike at the National Museum or other local institutions, visitors can have hands-on experience of ancient artifacts and we have workshops for our visitors that are tailored to their needs and

interests. Transition year students have also gained work experience at the Museum and the hosting of pre-university students has been a central part of our UG recruitment.

4. Collection links

The Weingreen Museum's collection is self-contained, but because of the variety of artefacts there are many natural links with other College collections. For example, among our holdings are organic remains including a mummified human head and mummified animals that might link us with Zoology and Anatomy while some of the natural materials could be of interest to the Geology collection. Our holdings from Roman period Palestine have direct links with coins in the Classic Department's coin collection (e.g., a Roman tile from the subjugated Judea of the first century with a "Judaea Capta" coin commemorating the Roman victory).

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Note to Image 2 (above, right): This Neo-Assyrian relief image of a kneeling genie underlined by a cuneiform inscription comes from the Northwest Palace of Nimrud, in modern Iraq and dates to the 9th century B.C.E. The Weingreen relief is one half of a panel that joins another relief fragment in the British Museum, which although much more fragmentary than the Weingreen piece, forms part of the exhibit entitled "Treasures from Assyria" which has received global acclaim.

The Zoological Museum



www.tcd.ie/Zoology/museum

The zoological, geological and herbarium collections are in the School of Natural Sciences.

1. Collection description and campus location

The Zoological Museum, located in the Zoology Building at the east end of College, contains over 20,000 specimens dating back over 200 years. The wide diversity of animal life represented in the collection is a rarity in itself and unsurpassed in Irish, and most British, universities. Today, the museum which is part of the School of Natural Sciences remains a vital, non-renewable teaching, educational and research facility for students, staff and visitors.

It contains many examples of extinct and endangered species and insect collections containing over 12,000 specimens many of which are of considerable national and international significance. The collection is further enhanced by over fifty glass models of marine-life, hand-made by the world renowned Blaschka family (c. 1860).

2. Provenance

Part of the Zoological Museum's original collection dates back from the Dublin University Museum founded in 1777. The present collection was moved to a purpose built building in 1876 (The Zoology Building). Since then, the building has undergone considerable change and this inevitably impacted on the size and content of the museum. A fund raising appeal to the College's alumni and friends enabled major refurbishment of the museum in 2005. As a result, the museum has now achieved national acclaim, culminating in a 'Highly Commended Best Collections Award' in May 2009 by the Heritage Council.

3. Use of Collection in Teaching, Research, Outreach

The primary function of the Zoological Museum is to provide a teaching and examination resource for Zoology undergraduate students. The collection also contains reference material for research purposes, notably the Murray insect collections. A recent review of the Murray collection showed 336 records for the Waterford County. The collection has been heavily drawn upon for national records going back to the Baynes revised catalogue of Irish Macrolepidoptera of 1964. The Museum is an active participant in the Trinity Access Programme (TAP), Culture Night, Heritage Week. We also encourage visits from school groups, the scientific community and the general public. The museum maintains close links with the National Museum, the Heritage Council, and Dublin Zoo.

4. College Collection links Geological museum and Botany herbarium

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