

DUBLIN CITY ARCHIVES

ITA/286
John MacDonagh
(1880-1961)

Irish Theatre Archive at Dublin City Archives

Daniel Ayiotis, Dublin City Archives Intern
(January 2016)



Dublin City Library and Archive
138-144 Pearse Street,
Dublin 2
Tel: 00 353-1-674 4996/4997
Email: cityarchives@dublincity.ie
Twitter: @dclareadingroom

Table of Contents

Fonds Level Description	3
Identity Statement	3
Administrative / Biographical History	3
Scope and Content	5
System of Arrangement	5
Archival History	6
Access and Descriptive Control	6
Index Terms	7
Series 1: Full Length Plays	8
Series 2: Short Plays and Sketches	14
Series 3: Sheet Music	16
Series 4: Correspondence Relating to “Did Santa Claus come from Ireland?” and Other Songs	17
Series 5: Radio Éireann Ghost Story Competition Entries	19
Series 6: "E[aster] Week"	20
Series 7: Ephemera	22

Fonds Level Description

Identity Statement

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286

Title: John MacDonagh (1880-1961) Collection

Date: 1916-1978

Level: Fonds

Extent and Medium: 2 archival boxes and 4 outsize items. This is comprised of 7 series, consisting of 6 files and 26 items, consisting of 2,615pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Administrative / Biographical History

The collection was donated to the Dublin City Library and Archive by Joan Heneghan and Eileen Heneghan on 16 December 2015. Their great-aunt, Eileen, was married to the playwright John MacDonagh, brother of Thomas MacDonagh (1916 Proclamation signatory).

John MacDonagh (1880-1961)

John MacDonagh was born in 1880 in Cloughjordan, County Tipperary. During his life he had a prolific and varied career as a playwright, film director, writer, poet, singer and musical composer, as well as participating in the 1916 Easter Rising as a member of the Irish Volunteers.

He trained as a singer in Italy and began his working life in the theatre touring with the Moody-Manners Opera Company, performing in various grand opera productions in England and the United States, before writing the script for D.W. Griffith's 1910 film "The Fugitive" (Griffith, as a historical side-note, was the director of the notorious 1915 film "The Birth of a Nation"). He returned to Ireland and became actor-producer with the Irish Theatre Company, founded in 1914 by Edward Martyn, his brother Thomas MacDonagh, and Joseph Plunkett. Here, he produced plays by masters of theatre such as Tchekoff, Ibsen, Strindberg and Maeterlinck for the first time in Ireland.

A member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, though not a member of its Military Council, John MacDonagh served as a Lieutenant with the Irish Volunteers during the 1916 Easter Rising. Stationed at the Jacob's Biscuit Factory (now the site of the National Archives of Ireland) on Bishop Street, Dublin, he served alongside his brother Thomas. Thomas MacDonagh served as Commandant of the 2nd Battalion of the Irish Volunteers during the Rising, with Major John MacBride as his second-in-command. Other notable figures also garrisoned at Jacob's were Michael O'Hanrahan, who had served with MacBride's Irish Transvaal Brigade, established to fight alongside the Boers against the British in the Boer War, and Peadar Kearney, author of the lyrics of Amhrán na bhFiann.

Following the surrender of the rebels Thomas MacDonagh was court martialled and sentenced to death by firing squad. For his own part in the Rising, John was initially sentenced to life imprisonment, and was incarcerated firstly at Knutsford Jail, Cheshire, England, before being moved to the Frongoch internment camp in Merionethshire, Wales. Frongoch housed approximately 1,800 Irishmen following the Rising, where they were accorded prisoner-of-war status. It played host to many notable future leaders of the Irish struggle for independence and earned the nickname "The University of Revolution."

MacDonagh was released in August 1916 and returned to Ireland. He joined the newly established Film Company of Ireland, working alongside its main director and Abbey actor Joseph Michael Kerrigan. He directed several motion pictures, including "Willie Reilly and his Colleen Bawn (1920)," filmed in the grounds of St. Enda's (the school founded by Pádraig Pearse and Thomas MacDonagh to promote Irish education), in which he also acted, and a short propaganda film advertising Republican loan bonds, featuring Arthur Griffith, Michael Collins, and other members of the first Dáil.

He went on to produce several of his own plays, and had particular success with "The Irish Jew (1921)," his play about a Jewish man who becomes Lord Mayor of Dublin, and which went on to be produced in the US. In 1924 he established his new revue called "Dublin Tonight" (*revue* being a very popular entertainment genre at the time), garnering much public acclaim. His short plays, sketches and songs were also contemporaneous favourites on Irish radio.

In 1937 he was appointed to the newly created post of Productions Manager at Radio Éireann, which he held until 1947. Following this position he produced the sponsored radio programme for the Irish Hospitals' Sweepstakes.

John MacDonagh died on 1 July 1961, at the Meath Hospital, and is buried at Dean's Grange Cemetery, Dublin.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of material collected primarily by John MacDonagh. A small amount of material contained in his scrap book, including newspaper notices of his death and funeral arrangements, were added subsequently by person(s) unidentified. The majority of the material consists of MacDonagh's plays - multiple copies in many cases - in complete, partial, draft, and annotated forms; thus providing the researcher with an insight into MacDonagh's creative processes and idiosyncrasies.

As well as his full length plays, the collection contains two files of short plays, suited to radio or revue, as well as two hard-backed volumes primarily containing hand-written sheet music for musical theatre productions. The collection also features correspondence in relation to the production, licensing and promotion of his song "Did Santa Claus come from Ireland?"

Concerning John MacDonagh's credentials as a republican, the collection contains a hand-written letter, signed "Henry," regarding the conditions in the Frongach Internment Camp to the London Aid Committee, and a 1932 Easter Week commemorative pamphlet featuring one of his poems.

From his time as Productions Manager with Radio Éireann, the collection contains a series of short ghost stories submitted by members of the public as part of a competition.

Finally, it includes several ephemeral items, including a 78 rpm record (content unknown), a scrap book consisting mainly of newspaper clippings, both about MacDonagh himself and other prominent Irish cultural figures, and a copy of the opera "Faust."

System of Arrangement

The collection is arranged into seven series.

Series 1, “Full Length Plays,” is the largest in the collection. Due to the difficulty in dating the manuscripts they have been arranged in alphabetical order. While it may be possible to date the first production or publication date of at least some of the works, there are, for the most part, no indications on the manuscripts as to their date of printing.

Series 2 and 3 consist of “Short Plays and Sketches” and “Sheet Music” respectively. The same points as per the first series apply regarding dates.

Series 4 is comprised of a single folder of correspondence, in original arrangement as accessioned to the Dublin City Archive, concerning the licensing, publication and promotion of songs by John MacDonagh, primarily but not exclusively “Did Santa Claus come from Ireland?”

Series 5 is comprised of a single folder of ghost stories written by members of the public as part of a competition, from MacDonagh’s time as Productions Manager of Radio Éireann.

Series 6 is the smallest but very significant in that, as well as two copies of a 1932 Easter Rising commemoration pamphlet featuring a poem by John MacDonagh, and a flyer featuring images of the Proclamation signatories, it contains a hand written letter dated 30 August 1916, to the London Aid Committee, describing conditions for Irish prisoners-of war in the Frongoch internment camp, signed “Henry.”

Series 7 contains items of ephemera from the collection that did not fit organically within any of the other series. It includes a scrap book, a 78 speed record and a copy of the opera “Faust.” Note: the original scrap book has been returned to donor and a digital copy retained by Dublin City Archives.

Archival History

This collection was transferred to record boxes and stored at B1/30, with an acknowledgment email sent by Ellen Murphy, Senior Archivist, on 16 December 2015.

Access and Descriptive Control

Access Conditions: Available to view by public who apply for research card in Dublin City Library and Archive Reading Room, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Access: The terms of the Copyright and Related Acts (2000) allows DCLA to provide photocopies of material for research purposes only. Researchers wishing to publish will be obliged to write to Antoine Giacometti for permission to do so.

Language: English

Related material:

- John MacDonagh's statement to the Bureau of Military History.
<http://www.bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie/reels/bmh/BMH.WS0219.pdf#page=1>
- Programme from the Queen's Theatre in Dublin for a performance of "Dublin Tonight" held at National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin.

Call number: EPH E220

View in: Prints & Drawings - Appointment only

Collection: Ephemera

Publication note:

- Hogan, Robert and Richard Burnham. *The Years of O'Casey. 1921-1926: A Documentary History*. Newark: University of Delaware Press, 1992.
- Roche, Anthony. *The UCD Aesthetic: Celebrating 150 Years of UCD Writers*. Dublin: New Island, 2005.
- Rockett, Kevin, Luke Gibbons and John Hill. *Cinema and Ireland*. 2nd Edition. London / New York: Routledge / Taylor & Francis, 2014.

Finding aid: Descriptive catalogue.

Archivist's note: Catalogue compiled by Daniel Ayiotis, Dublin City Archives intern.

Conventions: ISAD(G), IGAD.

Date of description: 21 January 2016.

Index Terms

MacDonagh, John, 1880-1961

Irish Theatre Company (Dublin, Ireland)

Film Company of Ireland

Radio Éireann

Series 1: Full Length Plays

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/1

Title: Full Length Plays

Date(s):

Level of Description: Series

Extent and Medium: 2 files, 15 items; 1848pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Manuscripts of full length plays by John MacDonagh, as well as a small amount of supporting material such as notes and letters. Many of the manuscripts bear hand written correction and notation. Most are in complete form, some partial, as well as some loose material.

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/1/1

Title: "The Birds Nest"

Date(s):

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 91pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Typed, string bound, play manuscript with hand-written title on red cardboard cover.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Cover and first two pages separated from string binding. Edges of cover and first page friable, badly frayed and torn.

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/1/2

Title: "The Blarney Stone"

Date(s):

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 54pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Paper bound manuscript. A musical play in three acts written by John MacDonagh and with music by Fritz Brase. Text only, sheet music not included.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Some staining, mainly to front and back pages.

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/1/3

Title: "The Blarney Stone or Noreen"

Date(s):

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 81pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Cardboard bound manuscript. A musical play in three acts written by John MacDonagh and with music by Fritz Brase.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Cover friable along edges, also some fraying, tearing and staining.

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/1/4

Title: "Brains"

Date(s): [c1938]

Level of Description: File

Extent and Medium: 169pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Contains two copies of John MacDonagh's play "Brains", a typed synopsis of same, and a rejection letter addressed to MacDonagh from Howard Rose of the British Broadcasting Corporation, Broadcasting House, London.

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/1/5

Title: "Brains"

Date(s):

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 98pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Typed, string bound, play manuscript. Text contains some hand-written notation.

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/1/6

Title: "The Irish Spell or The Blarney Stone"

Date(s):

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 101pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Cardboard bound manuscript with glued spine. A musical play in three acts written by John MacDonagh and with music by Fritz Brase (sheet music not included).

Includes a note on paper embossed with John MacDonagh's address "Bearna, Goatstown, Co. Dublin." bearing the hand-written words "Eileen P. MacDonagh. Tel 981075"

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/1/7

Title: "The Irish Jew"

Date(s):

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 74pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Typed play manuscript with red cardboard cover. Inside page contains the words "Property of:- W.D. Waxman." Text features a small amount of hand-written notation.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Cover in poor condition, fraying and tearing to edges. Some fraying and staining of pages.

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/1/8

Title: "It Can be Done"

Date(s):

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 85pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Cardboard bound play manuscript, spine fastened using twine.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Some fraying and tearing to edges of cover.

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/1/9

Title: "It Can be Done"

Date(s):

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 86pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Cardboard bound play manuscript, spine fastened using twine. Features hand-written notation. Name and address of "C. Cusack, Esq, 38 Beaufort Gardens" hand-written on inside back cover.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Some pages coming lose of string binding, some dog-earing. Fraying to edges of cardboard cover.

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/1/10

Title: "A Little Bit of Heaven"

Date(s):

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 79pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Typed play manuscript with hand-written title on cardboard front cover.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Some fraying and tearing to edges of cover, some tearing at top left hand corner of pages due to damage caused by metal fastening.

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/1/11

Title: "Mary Stay at Home"

Date(s): [c1944]

Level of Description: File

Extent and Medium: 400pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Multiple copies of a musical play titled "Mary Stay at Home" by John MacDonagh. Conditions of manuscript and documents vary, with some incomplete. Many of the copies have hand written edits or notation in different hand-writing. Also contains multiple copies of list of songs accompanying the play, as well as various loose sheets from the play. Date derived from an accompanying note typed by MacDonagh.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Conditions of documents vary from good to poor, with staining, tearing, dog-earing, fraying and friability.

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/1/12

Title: "Noreen"

Date(s):

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 81pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Cardboard bound manuscript. A musical play in three acts written by John MacDonagh and with music by Fritz Brase. Sheet music not included.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Some fraying and tearing to edges of cover.

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/1/13

Title: "Remains"

Date(s):

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 105pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Typed play manuscript with hand-written title on cardboard front cover. Pages missing, begins at page 2.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Fraying, tearing and folding to edges of cover and pages.

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/1/14

Title: Untitled Manuscript [New Remains]

Date(s):

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 102pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Typed play manuscript of the play [New Remains]. Cover does not bear play title, however, an enclosed fool's cap page of notes on the work does, and the main text matches that of "Remains" (ITA/286/21). As well as John MacDonagh's name and address the cover bears the hand-written words "Tia Mooney Abbey Theatre Dublin." Hand-written notes at end of scene 1. Lines of character "Mrs Ward" underlined throughout.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Many pages exhibit fraying and tearing to edges. Friable in places. Pages near end of manuscript in worst condition.

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/1/15

Title: Untitled Manuscript

Date(s):

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 102pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Typed play manuscript with green cardboard front cover. No back cover or character listing.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Some fraying and tearing to edges of entire document.

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/1/16

Title: "Weeds"

Date(s):

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 49pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: A play in three acts by John MacDonagh. Document is string bound with brown paper cover. Contains a hand-written letter addressed to John MacDonagh from Gerry Dillon of the Model School, Galway, advising a re-write.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

Some fraying around edges, mainly of cover.

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/1/17

Title: "When Love Came to Jones"

Date(s):

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 91pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Typed play manuscript with red cardboard cover. Pages bound with ribbon through double punched holes.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Front cover missing. Some fraying to back cover.

Series 2: Short Plays and Sketches

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/2

Title: Short Plays and Sketches

Date(s):

Level of Description: Series

Extent and Medium: 2 files; 183pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Series consists of two files containing short plays and sketches by John MacDonagh. Many are complete; some are in draft or incomplete form.

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/2/1

Title: Various Short Plays and Sketches 1

Date(s):

Level of Description: File

Extent and Medium: 81pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Contains short plays and sketches by John MacDonagh, mainly complete, some in draft or incomplete form. Contains "Cyrano up to Date"; "Cabby"; "The Cat Burglar"; "Canal Boat Scene"; "The Doctor"; "Dialogue"; "Double Act / Last Tram"; "We Have with us Tonight"; "11 O'Clock" (partial); "Elopement" (incomplete, scene two only); "An Even Match" (list of characters only). Also contains a hand-written list of short plays, not all of which are contained within the file.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Some fraying of edges and along folds and staining of paper evident. Minor friability in places.

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/2/2

Title: Various Short Plays and Sketches 2

Date(s):

Level of Description: File

Extent and Medium: 102pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Contains short plays and sketches by John MacDonagh, mainly complete, some in draft or incomplete. Contains "The Lucky Lady"; "Ireland's Eye Scene"; "In the Next Room"; "Japan"; "Lawyer" (incomplete); "A Burlesque on Costume Melodrama"; "Mulligan's New Year Gift"; "Mexico"; "The Mystery of the Safe" (partially typed, partially hand-written on different size pages); "Man's Peace is in the House" (duplicate). Also contains a hand-written list of plays, not all of which are contained within the file.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Some tearing and fraying of edges and along folds and staining of paper evident. Moderate friability in places.

Series 3: Sheet Music

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/3

Title: Sheet Music

Date(s):

Level of Description: Series

Extent and Medium: 2 items (outsize); 266pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Consists of two outsize volumes of sheet music, along with a small number of supporting documents.

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/3/1

Title: "Irish Spell"

Date(s):

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: Bound volume (outsize), 162pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Outsize, cardboard bound volume containing sheet music. Musical notation is hand-written and some pages contain amendments.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Majority of the pages are loose.

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/3/2

Title: "Irish Spell / The Kiss Stone"

Date(s):

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: Bound volume (outsize), 104pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Contains sheet music for "The Blarney Stone," as title is inscribed on first page (contrary to the title written on the cover) and short biographical notes on individuals from the world of music and theatre. Musical notation is hand-written and some pages contain amendments.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Pages of sheet music are all separated from the spine of the book. Some pages display fraying to edges and staining but remain fully legible.

Series 4: Correspondence Relating to “Did Santa Claus come from Ireland?” and Other Songs

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/4

Title: Correspondence Relating to “Did Santa Claus come from Ireland?” and Other Songs

Date(s): 9 Sep 1931 – 8 Jan 1954

Level of Description: Series

Extent and Medium: 118pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Folder containing letters, correspondence and documents relating primarily but not exclusively to John MacDonagh’s song "Did Santa Claus come from Ireland?" Documents are in original order as accessioned to Dublin City Archives and not chronologically arranged.

Contains:

- Letter of rejection to John MacDonagh from B Feldman and Company Limited, music publishers, in relation to "Home to Mayo";
- Letter of agreement between John MacDonagh and John Fields Music Company Limited, 20 Denmark Street, London, in relation to "Home to Mayo" and "Kate O'Shea";
- Hand-written lyrics to "O'Reilly's Party" on lined fool's cap paper;
- Envelope addressed to John MacDonagh containing hand-written and typed correspondence between John MacDonagh and Mrs BA Smith of 34(B) Wells Park Road, Sydenham, London, and Thomas Prendergast of 13 Barbieston Street, Auchinleck, Ayreshire, both in relation to the song "Home to Mayo";
- Letter to John MacDonagh from Salvatore T Chiantia of Leeds Music Corporation, Radio City, New York, in relation to a recording of his song "Did Santa Claus come from Ireland";
- Hand-written note in pencil in relation to the songs "Galway Bay" and "[Maid of the] Sweet Brown Knowe";
- Agreement permitting Jimmy O'Dea to record John MacDonagh's songs "The Belle of Grafton Street" and "Topical - In Dublin's Fair City";
- Cover letter to John MacDonagh from Box and Cox Publications Limited for a copy of the record "Did Santa Claus come from Ireland";
- Cover letter from John MacDonagh to Mr Braid in relation to six songs with hand-written notes in margins and calculation on back;
- Envelope titled "Walton Leeds Letters (2)" containing agreement assigning copyright of song "Did Santa Claus come from Ireland" to Walton's Piano and Musical Instrument Galleries of 2/3/4 North Frederick Street, Dublin, hand-written note regarding same, and another envelope containing list of songs and music available for purchase from Walton's;
- Envelope titled "Performing R[ights Society]" containing pamphlet regarding membership of the Performing Right Society Limited, list of members of same, and blank "1947 Uniform Popular Songwriters Contract";
- Empty air mail envelope addressed to John MacDonagh from Leeds Music Corporation;
- Hand-written letter in envelope to John MacDonagh from Patrick Coldrick c/o Blackstone, 221 W 57, New York, regarding the publication of "Did Santa Claus come from Ireland";

- Newspaper clipping of article about Mark Walton;
- Two letters from John MacDonagh concerning Sean Breen (baritone), one to Miss M Piggott of Radio Éireann and one to Mr OC Preuss of Parlophone Recording Department, London;
- Letters from Lou Leavy of Leeds Music Corporation, and Salvatore T Chiantia of Leeds Music Corporation, to Martin Walton of Walton's Piano and Musical Instrument Galleries, regarding songs by John MacDonagh;
- Correspondence between John MacDonagh (addressed as "Jimmy") and JT Gibney of Hollywood, California, regarding the licensing of MacDonagh's songs in the USA;
- Hand-written note referring to Sonny Cox;
- Correspondence between Martin Walton to John MacDonagh regarding proofs of songs in Irish Edition and Performers Rights fees;
- Correspondence between John MacDonagh and JH Squire of 4 South Close, Highgate, London, regarding fees for the performance and reproduction of material;
- Unattributed typed article titled "First Make 'Em Hits in America, Say British Pubs: Yanks Annoyed";
- Clipping of price list for songs from Pigott and Company Limited;
- Agreement assigning copyright of songs "Home to Mayo" and "Kate O'Shea" to John Fields Music Company Limited;
- Correspondence between John MacDonagh, Evelyn Plunkett of Decca Records Company Limited, 1-3 Brixton Road, London, and Joe Roncoroni of John Fields Music Company Limited, in relation to contractual negotiation, licensing and publishing of MacDonagh's songs;
- Correspondence between John MacDonagh and Mervyn A Solomon of Solomon and Peres, Wholesale Gramophone and Wireless Factors, 52 Donegall Street, Belfast, regarding publication of "Kate O'Shea" and "Home to Mayo";
- Two letters from John MacDonagh to Michael O'Duffy of 94 Clontarf Road, Dublin, and later of 65 Brook Green, Hammersmith, London, in relation to recordings of "Did Santa Claus come from Ireland" and "Home to Mayo";
- Cover letter from John MacDonagh to John Firman c/o Messrs B Feldman and Company, 125 Shaftsbury Avenue, London, for an enclosed vocal line of "Home to Mayo" (not included in this file).

Series 5: Radio Éireann Ghost Story Competition Entries

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/5

Title: Radio Éireann Ghost Story Competition Entries

Date(s): 5 Apr 1939 – 11 Apr 1940

Level of Description: Series

Extent and Medium: 213pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Folder containing stories submitted by the public for Radio Éireann competition. Mix of hand-written and typed. Also contains some letters from successful entrants regarding their consent, or otherwise, for the use of their names in broadcasting their work, or their availability, or otherwise, to attend the studio.

Series 6: "E[aster] Week"

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/6

Title: "E[aster] Week"

Date(s): 30 Aug 1916 - 1932

Level of Description: Series

Extent and Medium: 1 file, 2 items; 15pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Folder titled "E[aster] Week" containing material related to the Easter Rising.

Existence of Copies: Scanned; Digital copies available

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/6/1

Title: Letter

Date(s): 30 Aug 1916

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 8pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Hand-written letter from "Henry" to the London Aid Committee, regarding conditions in the Frongoch internment camp for Irish prisoners.

Existence of Copies: Scanned; Digital copies available

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/6/2

Title: Easter Week Commemoration Pamphlet

Date(s): 1932

Level of Description: File

Extent and Medium: 6pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Two copies of an Easter Rising commemoration pamphlet with the names of those executed on the front cover. Contains the poems "Easter Week" by John MacDonagh and "The Rebel Heart" by Francis A Fahy.

Existence of Copies: Scanned; Digital copies available

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/6/3

Title: Provisional Government of Irish Republic 1916 leaflet

Date(s): [c1932]

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 1pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Flyer featuring images of the seven Proclamation signatories and a poem by William Rooney

Existence of Copies: Scanned; Digital copies available

Series 7: Ephemera

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/7

Title: Ephemera

Date(s): 30 Apr 1916 – 1 Feb 1978

Level of Description: Series

Extent and Medium: 3 items; 1 record (outsize), 1 scrap book (outsize), 1 A3 book; 76pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: 78 speed record, scrap book and copy of the opera "Faust," all items accessioned with the collection but which do not fit organically within the previous series.

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/7/1

Title: 78 Speed Record

Date(s):

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 1 record (outsize)

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: 78 speed record in paper sleeve. Sleeve indicates recording of "Beethoven Symphonies conducted by Toscanini." Record label bears the words "Will Day, Ltd., 19 Lisle Street, London, W.C.2." on both sides but does not give an indication as to content. The name "Eileen" is written on one side.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Record displays warping and peeling of surface coating, fraying to edges of label. One side of sleeve has come unglued, some creasing of paper, particularly at corners.

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/7/2

Title: Scrap Book

Date(s): 30 Apr 1916 – 1 Feb 1978

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 1 volume (outsize), 40pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: Scrap book. Primarily newspaper and magazine clippings. Also contains photographs, hand-drawn charcoal sketches, pamphlets and other ephemera. Subjects include articles by and about John MacDonagh, as well as about people and events from the world of Irish arts, politics and culture.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Within item there is a hand-drawn charcoal sketch, 350mm x 310mm, which is friable along the top edge, with tearing and fraying around all edges. Recommended for digitisation or further attention by conservator.

Existence of Copies: Scanned; Digital copy available, original returned to donor.

Reference Code: IE DCLA/ITA/286/7/3

Title: "Faust"

Date(s):

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 1 A5 book, 76pp

Creator: John MacDonagh

Scope and Content: A5 book of the Moody Manners Opera Company's version of "Faust, Grand Opera in Five Acts." Written by Jules Barbier and Michel Carré, english version by HF Chorley, music by CH Gounod and published by Chapelle and Company Limited, 50 New Bond Street, London. MacDonagh had toured with the Moody Manners Opera Company as a singer in the UK and USA.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Staining and mould to cover and to early and late pages of "Faust."