



No.19: October 1998

ACAI Newsletter

Association of Church Archivists of Ireland

Our Newsletter

As you know, ACAI members are scattered throughout Ireland and a few are further afield – in England, America, The Netherlands. For various reasons some are unable to attend meetings or outings organised by the Executive over the year. For them the *Newsletter* is the principal means of communication with their fellow archivists.

There are many dilemmas for the archivist today. The queries raised in Fr. Leo Layden's article are not unique to the Spiritans. Many of us are thinking about computerisation – is it for the next generation? Most are overwhelmed with accumulated photographs – what do we do with them? And all of us are very busy – how do we find time to deal with the backlog of archival work not to mention the researchers who contact us? What about recent legislation on data protection and freedom of information – does it affect us?

We are very grateful to our members who regularly share their views, knowledge and experience with us – their names appear in almost every issue. As I said previously, they keep *ACAI Newsletter* alive. We would encourage others to join them in contributing to the *Newsletter* so that we can achieve in the widest possible way our objectives of communication and support. Your short articles, (200-500 words), letters, reports, book reviews, comments and tips drawn from your own experience will be gratefully received.

M.S.

ACAI Executive

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Contributions for inclusion in the May 1999 *Newsletter* will be gratefully received by Mary Smyth, Co-ordinating Editor, Provincial Curia, St. John of God Brothers, 'Granada', Stillorgan, Co. Dublin.



ACAI Membership
Ireland

Dear Friends:

I take this opportunity to introduce the Irish American Heritage Museum, Chartered by the New York State Board of Regents, headquartered in Albany, New York.

We are the only Museum of our kind in America dedicated to educating our visitors on the contribution of the Irish to America.

Our Exhibits must of necessity launch from Ireland to obviate the connection between the two countries and explain the dedication and determination of the Irish in America.

Information gathered while I was in Ireland reveals that there were at least 9 religious organizations FOUNDED in Ireland.

Society of African Missions, St. Patrick Missionary Society and the Society of St. Columban also the Christian Brothers, the Presentation Brothers and the Patrician Brothers.

The Sisters of Mercy, the Presentation Order and St. John of God (Sisters) end the list that I developed while there.

Any reference to the founding of these orders would be most helpful.

Sister Elinor Little of the Mercy Order in Dublin along with Sister Mary Agatha Smith here in Albany have provided me with information about the Mercy Order. Hopefully I'll be as fortunate with other sources.

It is my understanding that Archivists from all religions belong to your organization so information on any other religious groups FOUNDED in Ireland would be most helpful and ensure that no order was overlooked.

All images and artifacts will be credited to the source and reproduction expenses reimbursed with prior approval from our Office.

Please help us tell our story.

Yours very truly,

Joseph J. Dolan



The Irish American Heritage Museum's seasonal exhibit centre is at Rte. 145, East Durham, Greene County, New York. The historically renovated 1850s farmhouse has over 2,000 square feet of galleries in which visitors enjoy exhibits and programmes in history.

During the 1998 summer exhibition the Museum presented *Fire Upon The Hearth - A Celebration of Irish American Women*.

Over the summer months Joseph J. Dolan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Museum CEO, was in Ireland to source material for the proposed Millennium Exhibit *The Irish in Religion*. He is relying on the support of ACAI membership to ensure the success of the Exhibition. Please do all you can to help.

You can contact Mr. Dolan through the fax/telephone numbers above or by writing to him at 19 Clinton Avenue, Albany, NY 12207 or by Email: irishmus@crisny.org M.S.



UP IN ARMS

THE 1798 REBELLION IN IRELAND A BICENTENARY EXHIBITION

All the omens were good as we embarked on our annual outing. This year we went to the Ulster Museum to view the Bicentenary Exhibition of the Rebellion of 1798. The morning was bright, Iarnród Éireann's Enterprise was swift and comfortable and the flower beds in Belfast's Botanic Gardens were a joy to behold.

We had time for a tantalising look at the permanent exhibitions of the Museum – coins, stones, early and medieval Ireland, and industry in Ulster to name a few. A return visit is indicated.

Trevor Parkhill took us on a tour of "Up in Arms" which commemorated 1798. His brief analysis of the situation in Ireland prior to the Rebellion set the background. He was learned and witty, showing no perceptible bias towards either orange or green. We were brought through the years before the Rebellion and, from the relevant panels, could appreciate its international context. The world-wide rivalry between Britain and France was suggested by some items, including a picture of Captain Cook in Australia and of the death of General Wolfe in Quebec. The American War of Independence which inspired the formation of the "loyal and determined" Volunteers was brought to mind, not only by Wheatley's painting of their meeting in College Green and by portraits of the leaders, but also by the eye-catching 'Volunteer Quilt' illustrating their drilling, while families picnicked and boys climbed trees.

The French Revolution, in its many guises was well represented by 'The Declaration of the Rights of Man', flanked by prints showing the taking of the Bastille and the arrest and execution of Louis XVI.

Grievances at home could be gauged from the letters about tithes on display and also by the title pages of Acts of the Irish Parliament – an act to prevent further growth of Popery, another for disarming Papists and one to prevent Papists being sollicitors (sic) but Tone's *Argument on behalf of the Catholics of Ireland* was also on view. We saw Paine's *Rights of Man*, which ran to seven editions in Ireland – the copy on view was sold for sixpence.

We could see how the United Irishmen, who in 1791 called for "a cordial union of all the people of Ireland" had, by 1796 determined "to break the connection with England", with French help which came too little too late. Instead of the "cordial union" came division. The growth of secret societies was illustrated, while the Orange Order and the Yeomanry

grew in opposition to the 'Croppies'. The influence of the Orange Order could be inferred from flags, demits (certificates of good standing) and a minute book of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland on display. The Yeomanry and the secret societies of the time each had their panels, as also had the weapons in use by both sides in the conflict.

Pictures of the battles of the Rising, with maps and plans of them, made a colourful addition to the display. The large canvas of the Battle of Ballinahinch by Thomas Robinson formed the centrepiece of the Exhibition. You may have seen it in Aras an Uachtaráin during Mary Robinson's presidency. The many flags on display added to the colour.

The Irish Cultural Revival was not neglected. Edward Bunting's collections of Irish music, as well as harps and pictures of harpists and the opening page of Charlotte Brooke's *Reliques of Irish Poetry* were all on display. 'Bolg an tSolair' and Neilson's *Introduction to the Irish Language* showed love for the language dawning.

More ornamental were four of Malton's 'Views of Dublin', a silver toilet service belonging to the Countess of Kildare, and the 'Regalia of the Most Illustrious Order of St. Patrick'.

Caricatures by Crinkshald and Gillray mocked the United Irish endeavours as also did Billy Bluff's description of *Paddy's Resource* – a popular collection of patriotic songs.

Portraits of the leading men of the period abounded, including one of a young Castlereagh holding a golf club, perhaps the first golfing picture of an Irishman.

As for the women of the Rising, we saw Wolfe Tone's mother with her children, and Martha McTier, sister of William Drennan. Who was the "kindly and accomplished Miss Redmond" who looked so decorative as she fixed his pistol in a print of the Battle of Wexford? A model of Mary Anne McCracken watching the hanging of her brother, Henry Joy, was impressive. A photograph of her taken in 1866 showed her as an old woman.

There was so much more, but the painting of John Kells Ingram and the manuscript of his poem 'Who fears to speak of '98' was the final exhibit.

To assemble this Exhibition, so well-devised and well presented, was a work of genius. Alas! it has now been dismantled.

Sr Magdalena Frisby RSM

Did you know?

William Drennan first coined the phrase
"The Emerald Isle"

*A Parishioner's Complaint of
1844* - being a letter to a bishop,
recently found

my Lord I sit down to rite these few lines to
you in deep sorrow it is a complaint I am goin to
make ove too ove the priests ove this parish father
Gilmartin an father macey. Our parish is greatly
niglected this time back. I don't blaim father maly at
all for it he wood do all himself if he cood as to
father gilmartin he is like a man that dosnt care
whether he stops here or not he is either sick or at
his father at home. as to father macey as the sayin is
he is nether good be day or be nite he is nothing at
all he doos nothin only walkin about the streets if
any of us goos to confession he turns us home without
hearing us an ove a sonday we all lose mas he says it
so erly he is in such a great hurry to get over it he
is no use to us at all the people all here says only he
is a friend of yours he wood not be left here so long
he is of a great part ove the summer and the chapple
is niglected if you ax anybody the will tel you what I
am sayin is thru I wint to the chapple diferent times
this year an coodnt get him there all he minds is
himself everybody I tauk too says the same thing I
thought that the best thing I cood doo was too let you
no these things I am my lord

your obedent servent
a parishnar

*The hungry sheep look up
and are not fed*

Milton, Lycidas.

A Great Achievement

The Catholic Times 14 June 1998 reported that ten years of research by a 91-year-old nun have resulted in a 580-page publication *Vatican Archives: An Inventory and Guide to Historical Documents of the Holy See*. The book will shortly be published by the Oxford University Press at around £80.

Sister Claudia Carlen, an Immaculate Heart of Mary sister, led a team collecting historical information on all Vatican congregations and commissions since the beginning of the 10th century. In all 10 linear miles of documents from the Vatican had to be organised.

Sister Claudia was well prepared for her task. In 1927 she had studied the Dewey Decimal System and was assigned to library work. Since then she served as head librarian at many well-known institutes including the Casa Santa Maria in Rome. Her CV includes the compilation of a complete collection of the papal encyclicals in English, dating from 1704 to 1981.

Can every volume, much less every document, be listed in 580 pages? The scholars will just have to wait and see!





THE ALLEN LIBRARY

Located in the Christian Brothers residence, North Richmond Street, Dublin, the Allen Library dates back to the 1840s. From 1947 to 1984 Br. Allen was curator of the library and museum. His legacy and influence are reflected in the wealth of material and titles he collected during his time. After his death the North Richmond Street residence was renovated. A new library stack, reading room and ancillary facilities were provided on the lower ground floor. The Brothers recognised the significance and potential value of the collection for historians and students of all aspects of Irish History. Aware of the mammoth task involved in organising and cataloguing the library and the potential training and practical experience that this would provide, the Allen Library Project was set up in February 1994 under the auspices of FÁS, the National Training and Employment Authority, as part of its Community Response Programme. The aim of the Project is to sort, classify, catalogue and conserve the books and archival materials of the Allen Library to make them more accessible to potential users.

THE ALLEN LIBRARY PROJECT

Today the library contains approximately 30,000 volumes covering all aspects of Irish social, political and cultural history, including a comprehensive collection of Irish periodicals, pamphlets and educational reports. It is divided into the following main sections: biography, general Irish history, local history, ecclesiastical history, the history of the Christian Brothers' Congregation, Irish language, literature, folklore, music, education and archival material.

The first task of the Project was to draw up an inventory of the book stock. An in-house classification system and index card were designed. Transcription of the relevant details is in accordance with standard cataloguing guidelines to ensure uniformity with other library catalogues.

To date over 95% of the books in the library have been card indexed by over 112 course participants. To make the collection more accessible a computer system, running library management software called 'HERITAGE', was acquired at the end of 1995. Since January 1996 the trainees have been working on the computerisation of the information from the index cards. Currently data from over 14,500 books has been inputted and validated.

Two publications to date have been produced by the Project. In 1995 the Project undertook research into the history of the O'Connell Schools and the Christian Brothers, North Richmond Street. This culminated in the production of a booklet entitled *To the Cause of Liberty*. An exhibition was also designed and mounted to accompany the launch of this publication. *Edmund Rice's Dublin - Map and Heritage Trail* was undertaken following a special request by the sponsoring committee to coincide with the events surrounding the beatification in October 1996 of Edmund Rice, Founder of the Presentation and Christian Brothers. This outlines the history and development of the Brothers' early foundations in Dublin. The current research project deals with the social and economic history of Ballybough and is due for publication later this year.

In addition to this the Library and Project has contributed material to two additional exhibitions produced by other libraries: one in 1996 which covered *South Dublin and the 1916 Rising* and more recently an exhibition to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the death of *Daniel O'Connell*.

ARCHIVES

While space does not permit a full account of the current Allen Collection, mention must be made of the original museum and of the historical value and significance of the archives still held in the Library. The museum dates back to the 1880s when it began as an industrial display. In more recent times most of the exhibits were from the period of 1916-1922. Under the guidance of Br. Allen, past pupils of O'Connell Schools who had been involved in the Rising and the struggle for independence were approached in the search for items and artifacts for the museum. These exhibits, carefully organised and presented in glass cases, were accompanied by explanatory labels indicating each item's provenance and giving a brief account of its historical significance.

In 1962 when the school was remodelled, a vacant classroom was used to house the ever-expanding collection. The room was refurbished once more for the sesquicentenary of O'Connell Schools in 1978. To coincide with the 75th Anniversary of the 1916 Rising, some of the collection, mainly hard artifacts, was donated to the State. The National Museum will display this material eventually at its new premises at Collins Barracks. The remaining material was retained by the Allen Library and now forms part of an extensive collection of archives. Some of the more important items are: Prison Diaries, Autograph Albums, Newspapers, Letters, Photographs & Pictures, Maps & Personal Papers as well as the only known complete set of Famine Ration Cards. Information can be found on Patrick Pearse, Michael Collins, Grace Gifford, Roger Casement, Éamonn

Ceannt, Sean T. O'Kelly, Alice Milligan, Frank Flood and many more. Under the heading 'Letters' some notable correspondents include Maud Gonne McBride, Arthur Griffith, Dr. Kathleen Lynn, W.B. Yeats, Roger Casement and O'Donovan Rossa. These papers obviously contain valuable and unique material of great interest to researchers of Irish History.

Kevin Myers of *The Irish Times* visited the Library and an article relating to his visit was published in 'An Irishman's Diary' on 25 October 1997. He described the place as "one of the great centres of civilisation in Dublin". In July of this year the Project won a special merit award at the FÁS annual Regional Community Initiative Awards.

The Library is still in the process of being organised. Provision can be made to facilitate those wishing to undertake research in any of the subjects covered by the collection. The Project operates Monday to Friday and appointments can be made by telephone or email with the Librarian/Curator at (01) 8551077 or at allenlib@connect.ie. The Library will soon have its own web site which is definitely worth accessing.

Noelle Dowling

The archival procedure for contemporary documents is just as important as the collection of old documents and the conservation of historical archives. In fact, tomorrow's historical archives are kept in today's archives for current affairs in various episcopal and provincial curias, in parish offices, in secretarial offices of individual ecclesiastical institutions. In these every moment of the life of the Church community, and its continued development, is recorded, as well as its capillary organisation and the multiple activities carried out by its members.

The Pastoral Function of Church Archives

A source for tracing Irish sisters in Australia 1838-1918

Brother Rory O'Higgins of St Bede's College in Mentone, Australia is compiling a database of religious women in Australia from the time of their first arrival in 1838 till 1918. He has over 14,000 entries with details of place and date of birth, names of parents (including the maiden name of the mother), place and date of death, when they entered and the name of the religious order involved.

Many of these were Irish. Br Rory is happy to check his database on enquiry. He can be contacted at

St. Bede's College
Mentone 3194,
Australia

or by e-mail: br@stbedes.melb.catholic.edu.au



The Irish Dominican Province 1698-1797

The Irish Dominican Province 1698-1797 (Dominican Press, xii + 655 pages, paperback, IR£30) is the work of our consultant editor and former ACAI President, Hugh Fenning OP. The reviews speak for themselves:

'It is impossible to do justice to all the themes in this rich and rewarding book.'

Louis M. Cullen, professor of modern Irish history, TCD.

'... original, learned and superbly crafted ... By any yardstick a remarkable story.'

Leonard Boyle OP, Prefect Emeritus, Vatican Library.



Christ Church Documents Series

The fourth volume in the Christ Church Documents Series, a prelude to a full scale history of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin which is to appear in the year 2000, has been published by the Four Courts Press at IR£30. *The Registers of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin*, edited by Raymond Refaüssé and Colm Lennon, brings together the principal documents from the cathedral's archives which will allow historians and other interested people to identify and analyse the Christ Church community from the late middle ages to the dawn of the twentieth century. The 15th century book of obits (since migrated to the Library of Trinity College, Dublin), the funeral entries from the 16th and 17th century proctors' accounts, and the 18th and 19th century registers of baptisms, marriages and burials provide, by Irish standards, a remarkably long series of "personal records". No other Irish ecclesiastical institution can trace its membership over such a protracted period and, with the possible exception of Dublin Corporation, no Irish institution at all has comparable records of its membership.



RCB Parish Register Series

The fourth in the RCB Library's series of Church of Ireland parish registers will be published in the autumn. *The Register of Holy Trinity Church, Cork, 1643-1668* has been edited by Dr. Susan Hood, Assistant Librarian and Archivist in the RCB Library. Holy Trinity, Cork, otherwise known as Christ Church, was the most important of the Cork parish churches in the early modern period and had strong associations with the local municipal corporation. Dr. Hood's careful transcription of the text and her valuable introduction make this an important volume not only for genealogists but also for local and ecclesiastical historians.

Raymond Refaüssé

Dr. Ray Refaüssé

Towards the end of 1991 the Association of Religious Archivists of Ireland, pursuing a plan to extend its scope to include all Irish church archivists of whatever denomination, called a meeting to which representatives of other Churches were invited. Among these was Ray Refaüssé, the Librarian and Archivist of the Representative Body of the Church of Ireland. When the change took place in 1992 and the ACAI came into being Ray was at once elected to the Executive and became Vice-Chairman.

He has given most valuable service to the Association by his faithful attendance, and by the wisdom of his contributions to its business. He has been obliged to resign from the Executive owing to the pressure of editorial work involved in the publication of a great deal of material relating to the history of Christ Church cathedral in Dublin. His presence at Executive meetings will be greatly missed, but we hope to see him at other meetings from time to time, and wish him great enjoyment in his editorial work.

Rev. D. A. Levistone Cooney



Third Spiritan International Meeting

Two years ago I wrote about a meeting of European Spiritan Provincial Archivists in Rome. In May of this year the same group met again in Chevilly on the outskirts of Paris. The occasion was marred for us by the unexpected illness of our French General Archivist for the Congregation. On medical advice he had immediately tendered his resignation, had to have major surgery - but has since died.

The first item on our agenda for this year was to introduce the *Guide for Spiritan Archivists*. This small work of 26 pages started out as an initiative of the group and, after much consultation, has now been approved by the General Council for use throughout the Congregation. It is aimed at less developed areas where we work and where our personnel have little or no access to professional services when starting up an archive. It comes in English, French and Portuguese.

Most of one day was given to reports from the individual members of the group from eight European countries, followed by discussion. Some interesting questions arose:

- Who owns the archives created by our own personnel (who are religious) in areas where the diocesan clergy are taking over and where, sometimes, the local Ordinary makes his own regulations with regard to archives?
- Can our General Council overrule any such regulations?
- Can our own (Spiritan) members demand 'special treatment' and be allowed direct personal access to the deposit?
- Is there any way to prevent the destruction of the papers of deceased members before the archivist can assess their worth?
- If there are few researchers seeking access to an archive, is it the fault of the archivist?
- Could we have a common data base for use throughout the Congregation?
- What should be kept in a financial archive if indeed the archivist can be entrusted with such weighty material?
- How determine charges for services rendered by the archivist?

- Can researchers be obliged to acknowledge the archive in any subsequent publication?

These questions, and some more as well, provided scope for interesting debate. At the end of our discussions on them it was generally felt that the new Guide provided a basis for an answer to most of our problems.

Attention focused next on a development within Europe which some would regard with suspicion. It has happened more than once that the bureaucrats of Brussels, without prior discussion, have issued edicts and decisions about matters of very general interest which have the force of law within the European Community. Might this not happen in the area of archives? Does not the Church have a right to regulate its own affairs? And, in fact, the Church in its Code of Canon Law recommends that religious Institutes should protect their own heritage.

It would be difficult to summarise the debate that took place among us on this issue. We were generally agreed that we had no protection as of now from laws emanating from Brussels and that we should do something about this. We were told that the German Spiritan archives are already protected, the Province having formally adopted the regulations of the Bishops Conference.

We decided to establish a small commission. Its brief was to draw up a document of suggested legislation establishing our right as a Congregation to found, maintain and retain ownership of archives. This work is already under way. It should be finalised by the time our next meeting takes place in the year 2000 in Gemert in Holland.

Leo Layden CSSp



Irish Religious Houses Heritage Association

This new group, formed to save something from the widespread closure or drastic remodelling of convents, held its second annual conference at Baggot Street on 10 October 1998. Several of our own members attended the event. No less than three lectures were given in the morning, with only one short break conceded in response to someone's anguished plea. The lectures, however, were excellent. Fr Seamus Enright, who is much interested in spirituality as evidenced by conventual libraries, spoke of the two Ursuline writers of Cork, Sisters Ursula Young and Borgia McCarthy. The latter compiled the *Ursuline Manual*, a highly popular prayer-book which had 44 editions in the United States alone. Although it first appeared at London in 1825, no copy of that first edition has been found. Another London edition of 1823, lacking a title-page, recently came to light in St Patrick's College, Thurles. Has any reader an edition earlier than 1835?

The architectural historian, Freddy O'Dwyer, then spoke on the 'Ecclesiastical Architecture of Pugin and Ashlin', two men who designed so many of our churches and colleges. This slide-lecture had little to do with conventual buildings, now most at risk, but it may have saved some conventual oratory from refurbishers and modernisers who, for all their zeal, sometimes lack the least notion of artistic unity. If you must smash the reredos, take some good photographs first.

The third speaker, Fr Brendan McConvery, Redemptorist archivist at Marianella, took up a novel and more archival theme: 'Aspects of popular religion in Twentieth-Century Ireland' as reflected in reports submitted to headquarters by Redemptorists conducting parish missions. This

too was a slide-lecture, illustrated by contemporary photographs of the burning of illicit poitín stills, with their essential 'worms', while bystanders raised their hands to take the Pledge, and the 'mission cross' was raised. Fr McConvery entered a plea for the importance of archival material of this kind for an eventual history of Irish Catholicism. These records reveal a 'demographic profile' of the parish, patterns of religious practice and the numbers attending for confession and communion. They also show how such missions helped to heal the divisions caused by the Civil War and reinforced the sombre values of the new Republic in matters of social morality. At Carrick on Shannon in 1922, the missionaries even had to deal with a local Socialist, a benevolent man who started by organising dances and ended up denying the existence of God!

Another contemporary problem was the proliferation of dance-halls - 'The Ballrooms of Romance' - made possible by the arrival of the motor car and greater affluence. The situation was most grave in Cork and Kerry, one wonders why, with dances lasting until two in the morning. Most dancers, incidentally, came from some distance by car. The missionaries were not the only ones concerned, since the Dáil itself passed an Act on the subject in 1935. Immodest dress (women in trousers), mixed bathing, British Sunday newspapers, poitín-making, all came under attack, but there was a positive side to all these earnest efforts. The missionaries were at their best with ordinary people whom they successfully encouraged to receive the sacraments more often and more worthily. At Corofin in 1928, the mission was judged a success: 'many young men are now going to daily communion and some old women have begun to talk to their enemies.'

Hugh Fenning op





The Cardinal O'Fee Library

In the October 1996 issue of *ACAI Newsletter* Fr. Patrick Campbell wrote of the plan of the Cardinal Tomas O'Fiaich Memorial Library & Archives Trust to build an Archive and Library in Armagh in memory of the late Cardinal O'Fee.

You will be glad to know that the construction work on the substantial, single storey building, at 15 Moy Road, Armagh, is complete. Roísín Ní Mheara is in the process of getting the books and material classified. The Cardinal O'Fee Public Library will open early next year – either on 17 March, feast of St. Patrick or on 8 May, the ninth anniversary of the death of Cardinal O'Fee.

The building will house the Cardinal's books and papers, his unpublished lectures and articles, as well as other memorabilia relating to his life. It will include also materials relating to his research work in Irish history, his works on Irish links with Europe and the Irish contribution to the evangelisation of Europe; and also materials relating to his lifelong promotion of the Irish language, Celtic spirituality, Irish culture, music and games. His interest in the history of the Archdiocese of Armagh and of the Church in Ireland will be reflected in the inclusion of an archive to house documents of historical and contemporary interest relating to the life of the Church in Armagh and throughout Ireland.

With computer links to the main public libraries in Northern Ireland and Queens University, Belfast, the late Cardinal O'Fee's books and papers, together with the extensive Armagh archdiocesan archive which is of national significance, will provide a unique

research facility in Ireland. All concerned are to be congratulated on this wonderful achievement.

Roísín Ní Mheara has promised us an account of the Library and Archive when everything is up and running.

Mary Smyth

Archives, as part of the cultural heritage, should be made available primarily to the community which has produced them.

But in time they take on a universal dimension and become the heritage of all of humanity. The material stored can not be, in fact, precluded to those who can take advantage of it in order to know more about the history of the Christian people, their religious, civil, cultural and social deeds.

Those responsible must make sure that the use of Church archives be facilitated further, that is not only to those interested who have the right to access but also to a larger range of researchers, without prejudice towards their religious or ideological backgrounds, following the best of Church tradition... Such an attitude of disinterested openness, kind welcome, and competent service must be taken into careful consideration so that the historical memory of the Church may be offered to the entire society.

The Pastoral Function of Church Archives (1997)

ACA Winter Programme

A Guided Tour of

The National Museum of Ireland Collins Barracks

is organised for Saturday, 28 November 1998 at 2.30 p.m.
The tour will include a visit to the 1798 Rebellion exhibition
Entry Fee: IR£1 per person



A Visit to

Church of Ireland Representative Church Body Library

is being organised for January 1999
Details will be sent to you nearer to the date
