

THE NEW COLLECTION GUIDE

(PCUL/NC , CUL/NC , KIR/NC)



MICHAEL BLAKE

PAUL CULLEN

TOBIAS KIRBY

Aims of this guide

The following is a guide to what is known as 'The New Collection'. The guide explains the elaborate background to this collection (**provenance** and **archival history**) which involved separation from core collections, removal to Australia and eventual return to the Irish College. The **arrangement** and **content** of the collection is explained and finally **access conditions** and **finding aids** are identified.

The New Collection consists of papers taken from the archive by Cardinal Moran of Sydney, whose intention was to write a biography of his uncle, Paul Cullen. Moran took material from both Cullen and Kirby papers and a small quantity of earlier material. He appears to have focused on early 19th century letters and documents dating from the Rector Blake and Rector Boylan rectorships (PCUL/NC), Cullen's pre-Irish College days at Propaganda Fide (CUL/NC), material dating from Cullen's time as rector (CUL/NC) as well as focusing on later letters written by Archbishop Cullen to Kirby between 1850 and 1860 (KIR/NC). The collection was returned from St Patrick's College, Manly, Australia in the mid-20th century. It has, therefore, in the past been referred to as the 'Manly Collection'.

It is not intended to provide **biographical histories** of Dr Cullen and Dr Kirby in this guide as these are dealt with in two separate guides, both of which are available on this website. (See *Cullen Papers in the Irish College Rome (1821-1879)* and *Kirby Papers in the Irish College Rome (1831-1895)*). For information on Michael Blake and the restoration of the college please see references at the end of this guide.

The New Collection in the Irish College Rome

Covering Dates: 1759-1895

Collection Codes: The New Collection is divided into three series

- PCUL/NC - Pre Cullen New Collection 1759-1825
- CUL/NC - Cullen New Collection c1820-1851
- KIR/NC - Kirby New Collection 1840-1895

Finding Aids: A catalogue is currently being compiled and catalogue entries will be paired with the digitized images.

Provenance and archival history

The New Collection is comprised of material separated from the 'core' Cullen Collection and 'core' Kirby Collection and also a small quantity of papers dating from the earlier rectorships of Michael Blake and Christopher Boylan and an even smaller amount of material pre-dating the restoration of the college in 1826.

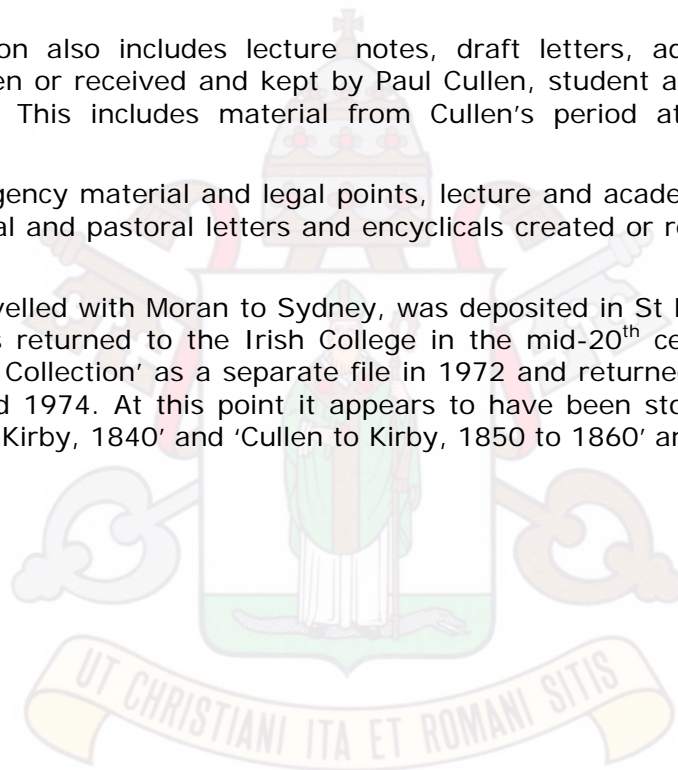
The New Collection mainly consists of incoming mail received and kept by the four rectors (Blake, Boylan, Cullen, Kirby) during their rectorships.

- The New Collection contains almost all of the correspondence to Rectors Blake and Boylan that exists in this archive.
- Given its origins it is not surprising that New Collection material *mirrors* material in the 'core' collections. Therefore, for the Cullen and Kirby time-periods, one finds similar types of correspondence from the same people.
- Notwithstanding this point, Moran does appear to have focused upon removing letters written by Archbishop Cullen to Kirby between 1850 and 1860. It is suggested by Corish that this 'must represent almost all of their correspondence for [that] decade.'¹

The New Collection also includes lecture notes, draft letters, administrative notes and memoranda written or received and kept by Paul Cullen, student and later office holder at Propaganda Fide. This includes material from Cullen's period at the Printing Press of Propaganda.

It also includes agency material and legal points, lecture and academic notes, spiritual and devotional material and pastoral letters and encyclicals created or received and kept by Dr. Kirby.

The collection travelled with Moran to Sydney, was deposited in St Patrick's College, Manly, Australia and was returned to the Irish College in the mid-20th century. Corish describes seeing 'the Manly Collection' as a separate file in 1972 and returned to examine it in more detail in 1973 and 1974. At this point it appears to have been stored in [three] box files entitled 'Cullen to Kirby, 1840' and 'Cullen to Kirby, 1850 to 1860' and 'Box III'.



¹ Corish, Patrick. Irish College Rome: Kirby Papers in *Archivium Hibernicum XXXI 1973* p.1 (Dublin)

