

PHOTOGRAPHS PRE-1939: PRELIMINARY ARCHIVAL GUIDE

(Fonds-level description and selective box-lists)

This is a preliminary guide to the pre-1939 collections of photographs held at the Pontifical Irish College, Rome. They are still in the process of being properly accessed, arranged, and listed, but this will give a first key of entry. Including items in the photograph albums, there may be around 700 items in all, of varying sizes.

IDENTITY STATEMENT

Title: Photographs of the rectorships Kirby, Kelly, Murphy, O'Riordan, Hagan and Curran

Covering Dates: [1880s]-1939

Collection Codes: PICR Archives P/KIR, P/KEL, P/MUR, P/MOR, P/HAG, P/CUR.

Collection Size: 8 albums, c.2 boxes (c.700 items)

Finding Aids: incomplete box lists

Description level: fonds



CONTEXT

The Irish College archives hold a number of photograph collections of very varying sizes; this deals only with the earlier collections pre-dating 1939 (including Michael Curran's rectorship).

The photographs were and are contained, for one part, in five photograph albums, and for the other they were found in diverse receptacles, usually without endorsements. Where the items did bear captions, they were either on the item itself, or written (in the case of albums) adjacent to the photograph, or (in the case of loose items) on the receptacles containing them or on attached notes. They usually name the persons depicted; in some cases later notes supply the names of individuals, as for a group portrait, noted down many years/decades after the date the photograph was taken. The latter were retained and are filed with the photographs they refer to.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Scope and Content

These photographs depict for the greater part, Irish ecclesiastics, whether ordained, seminarians, members of the (Irish) hierarchy, religious, that were in some way connected to the Irish seminary in Rome. In the case of two presentation photograph albums (for Rector Kirby), the persons portrayed are members of the Australasian church. Some friends of the College are also featured, if usually not named (one notable exception are Seán T.Ó Ceallaigh and his wife Cáit).

Student life both in Rome and in Tivoli is the strongest of the themes featured in these items, with student interspersed with portraits of visiting clerics and lay people. In the Curran collection, landscapes are also a dominant feature, with scenes from popular excursions from Tivoli (where the College had its summer residence) abounding.

Arrangement

Arrangement is by provenance where possible, and where this was not clear, a general order by rectorship was assumed.

Photograph albums remain undisturbed in their original order. Concerning the loose items, appraisal of order was made by the receptacles they were found in (sometimes naming

a rector), and then by any other indications as to authorship or date. Often the author of a photograph is not known, and provenance was taken to be the rectorship. Some photographs had been filed with items in the rector's correspondence and were separated for conservation reasons (P/CUR2 and P/HAG2, but also P/KIR which is yet in need of being accessed).

CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE

Conditions governing access: open access

Finding aids: incomplete box lists – see below

Publications: none

Content: Loose photographs

P/MOR/1-18

Archival status: incompletely accessed

Provenance: Mons. Michael O'Riordan's correspondence

Amount: twelve, small format (>13.5x10.5 cm); six, larger format (18x13 cm).

Dates: 1906-1909 and undated

Commentary: some by sender, some on envelope by owner

Image-forming substance/binder/support: to be established

P/CUR/ 1-239 and subnumbers

P/CUR/ 240neg -252neg

Archival status: incompletely accessed

Provenance: [Mons. Michael Curran] various boxes and envelopes, some marked by Curran

Amount photographs: 218, small format (>13.5x10.5 cm) and 27, larger format (18x13 cm), and some copies

Amount negatives: 17 (5 also exist in print and bear same numbers; others only extant as negatives)

Dates: 1901-1926 [1939] and undated

Commentary: some by owner, some by unknown

Image-forming substance/binder/support: to be established

Comments: these photographs were found in separate envelopes (conserved at the beginning of the photographs) within a small cardboard box which also contained some postcards (not included). It was only after comparing the photographs that a common thread became apparent and that they could all be attributed to Rector M.J. Curran. The following arrangement into groups was imposed by the archivist in October 2006. Some photographs are kept loose in separate enclosures because of their larger size. Collections P/MOR, P/HAG, P/BLU and P/ BRO were in separate containers.

Groups:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1) Dated photographs (chronological 1901-1926) | /1-113 |
| 2) Undated photographs | / 114-240 |
| 2.1.) Named individuals and groups | /114-127 |
| 2.2.) Classes | /128-134 |
| 2.3.) Unnamed individuals and groups | /135-222 |
| 2.3.1.) formal settings | /135-153 |
| 2.3.2.) holiday [Tivoli] settings | /154-191 |
| 2.3.3.) holiday settings (excursions) | /192-222 |
| 2.4.) Journey Brindisi-Corfu-Crete | /223-232 |
| 2.5.) Roman settings | /233-239 |

P/CUR2/ 1-3

Archival status: incompletely accessed

Provenance: Mons. Michael Curran's correspondence (CUR/)

Amount: 3, small format (>13.5x10.5 cm) and one miniature-size copy each

Dates: [August 1933]
Commentary: some by owner [mainly in correspondence]
Image-forming substance/binder/support: to be established

P/HAG/1-3

P/HAG/2neg (1-2)

Archival status: incompletely accessed
Provenance: [Mons.John Hagan] among various boxes, envelopes
Amount photographs: 2 small format (>13.5x10.5 cm), 1 large
Amount negatives: 2
Dates: [1899-1904]
Commentary: -
Image-forming substance/binder/support: to be established
Conservation remarks: both are studio prints, mounted.

P/HAG2/ 1

Archival status: incompletely accessed
Provenance: Mons.John Hagan's correspondence (HAG/)
Amount: 2, small format (>13.5x10.5 cm) 1 larger (c.10x6cm)
Dates: [May-June 1915]
Commentary: none [neither mentioned in correspondence]
Image-forming substance/binder/support: to be established
Conservation remarks: mark from corrugated paper-clip

P/BLU/1-3

Archival status: incompletely listed
Provenance: [Fr.James Bluett's personal effects] – envelope from Fr.B.Connellan, St. Mary's, Limerick, to Mons.Fleming I.C.R., in 2000 (no covering letter found).
Amount: 1, small format (>13.5x10.5 cm) and 2, larger format (18x13 cm).
Dates: 13 January 1925-1927
Commentary: [by owner or Connellan]
Image-forming substance/binder/support: to be established

P/ BRO/ 1-3

Archival status: incompletely listed
Provenance: [Fr.William Browne, Cobh] – envelope with inscription 'sent me by Fr. Wm.Browne, Queenstown' (n.d. unidentified hand)
Amount: 3, small format (>13.5x10.5 cm)
Dates: August 1901
Commentary: [unidentified, Irish College]
Image-forming substance/ binder/support: to be established

P/ UN/ 1-5

Archival status: incompletely accessed
Provenance: unidentified -1 envelope marked 'Photos of Cardinal M... 's tomb in St.Agatha's' (unidentified hand)
Amount: 5, small format (>13.5x10.5 cm)
Dates: none
Commentary: [unidentified, Irish College]
Image-forming substance/ binder/support: to be established

Content: Photograph Albums

(5 albums/ c.280 photographs)

PA/ KIR1/ 1-26

Portraits of Australasian Catholic prelates

Provenance: Tobias Kirby – cover bears dedication 'Presented to His Grace The Most Rev.Dr.Kirby, Archbishop of Ephesus and Rector of the Irish College, from a sincere Sydney Friend, A.B.'

Amount: 26 (17x10.5 cm); 6 missing.

Dates: [1886-1911] (Moran's cardinalate and Kirby's appointment as archbishop)

Commentary: brown leather-bound album with metal clasp. All studio portraits, mounted, slotted into designated spaces, with captions in ink. The reverse sides do not seem to hold further captions (not all have been checked).

Image-forming substance/binder/support: to be established

Conservation remarks: could benefit from interleaving pages.

Scope and content:

This album obviously postdates Kirby's appointment as titular Archbishop of Ephesus 1886, and might date to that year, presented in congratulation. It contains portraits of members of the hierarchy in Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific.

Item-level:

Cardinal Moran of Sydney; Dr.Polding +; Dr.Vaughan +; Dr.Murray (Maitland); Dr.Lanigan (Goulburn); Dr.Torreggiani (Armidale); Dr.Byrne (Bathurst); Dr.Dunne (Wilcannia); Dr.Doyle (Grafton); Dr.Higgins (Sydney); Dr.Carr (Melbourne); Dr.Crane (Sandhurst); Dr.Moore (Ballarat); Dr.Reville (Sandhurst); Dr.Corbett (Sale); Dr.Reynolds (Adelaide); Dr.Gibney (Perth); Dr.O'Reilly (Port Augusta); Dr.Dunne (Brisbane); Dr.Cani (Rockhampton)- missing; Dr.Hutchinson (Cooktown); Dr.Murphy (Hobart); Dr.Redwood (Wellington); Dr.Moran (Dunedin); Dr.Luck (Auckland); Dr.Grimes (Christchurch); Dr.Lamaze (Samoa)- missing; Dr.Fraysse (New Caledonia)- missing; Dr.Vidat (Fiji)- missing; Dr.Navarre (New Guinea); Dr.Verius (New Guinea); Dr.Couppé (New Britain)- missing.

PA/ KIR2/ 1-100

Photographs of New South Wales (Sydney, Charles Potter 1892)

Presentation album with personal dedication to Kirby

Provenance: Tobias Kirby, dedication 'presented to the Irish College, Rome, his beloved "Alma Mater" as a souvenir of his short visit 14 June 1893 +Patrick Francis Cardinal Moran Archbishop of Sydney'.

Amount: 100 (all c.23x28 cm)

Dates: 14 June 1893

Commentary: 'luxurious' burgundy leather-bound album with gilt lettering; all edges gilt.

Photographs slotted into designated spaces. Captions handwritten in ink.

Image-forming substance/binder/support: to be established

Conservation remarks: yellowing around the edges, some foxing of both card and photographs, brittle dust [from emulsion loss]. Could benefit from interleaving pages.

Scope and content:

This presentation album, published in Sydney although with handwritten and not printed captions, celebrates New South Wales, that is the city of Sydney (c.30 photographs), featuring buildings of public administration and of worship, and a wide variety of scenes from the New South Wales province, including edifices, industrial constructions and natural/wildlife resorts.

Item-level:

Motifs include the Colonial Secretary's Office, General Post Office, St.James's Cathedral, Circular Quay, George Street, Botanic Gardens, Parramatta River, Sydney water supply pipeline, Wiseman's Ferry, Lake Macquarie, Nepean River, National Park, the Orphan Rock (Katoomba), Broken Hill Mines, Tenolan Caves.

PA/ MOR1/ 1-61

Portraits of clergy – friends and colleagues

Provenance: [Michael O'Riordan] - handwriting of captions; Limerick stationer.

Amount: forty-eight, small format (>10x6.5 cm); thirteen, larger format (16x10.5 cm).

Dates: [1856-1919] undated but collected within O'Riordan's lifetime.

Commentary: brown leather-bound album with metal clasp. All studio portraits except last (image Regina Coeli), mounted, slotted into designated spaces, captions in pencil; some photographs have handwritten dedications etc. on the reverse (not all have been checked).

Image-forming substance/binder/support: to be established

Conservation remarks: could benefit from interleaving pages.

Scope and content:

This album must have belonged to Rector Michael O'Riordan (rector 1905-1919); here he collected presentation portraits of eminent ecclesiastics, of colleagues, but most importantly, of former Roman fellow students, who often signed their portraits to him. Also there are a portrait of Daniel O'Connell, and a sacred image of Regina Coeli that closes the album.

Item-level: (not all reverse sides have been checked for dedications/captions)

Cardinal Manning, J.Mescal (native of Clare, at Propaganda);

Mons.Verdon (Manly College);

St.Clair Bridge (Sydney);

Rev.James Lawless (London);

J.Mulcahy (native of Limerick, at Westminster);

Mons.Kirby; Don Bosco (with his signature on reverse 'Sac.Gio.Bosco');

Padre Agostino di Montefeltro;

Mons.Mogliuzzi; Mons.Ubaldi 'R.I.P.';

Rev.Fr.Stanfield; Dr. [Heffernat] (Catholic University Washington);

Cardinal Cullen;

Rev.Dr.McRyan (Newfoundland);

J.Bourke (Ross)(holograph dedication from 'schoolfellow', note 'received 1877');

Rev.Dr.Shehan (Catholic University Washington- with holograph dedication to O'Riordan and note 'left Rome 1882');

Rev.J.Curtin (holograph dedication on reverse, note on how he left Rome 1881);

Rev.W.Coffey (Dublin);

Rev.E.Mackey (Dublin);

Rev.Dr.O'Toole 'R.I.P.' (holograph dedication, American College);

Rev.Dr.T.Langan (Bathurst);

Rev.J[Corneyn] 'R.I.P.'(Canada)(holograph dedication on reverse 1881);

Rev.M.Carroll;

Rev.Th.O'Farrell;

Rev.A.Coyle [...];

Rev.J.Walsh (Canada)(note on reverse 'left with [Cormyn] Propaganda');

Rev.[Jm.] Cartan (holograph dedication on reverse and note left Rome 1882);

Rev.J.K.Fitzgerald;

Rev.Dr.Hassan;

Rev.Th.Casey (Holloway);

Rev.[Th. P.P. Kilfinan] 'R.I.P.';

Edmund [O'Reilly] 'R.I.P.'(Milford);

J.K.L. (Dr.Doyle);

Aubrey DeVere (handwritten name and address on reverse);

William Halpin 'R.I.P.' (holograph dedication on reverse, note he left 1879 and died 1882);

Rev.St.O'Donnell;

Rev.J.[Victory] (Dublin)(note on reverse 'left Rome with Kerr' 1879;

Rev.W.Bourke (Killaloe)(holograph dedication on reverse 1881 and note);

Rev.E.O'Connor (Sydney) 'R.I.P.';

(unnamed);

Rev.J.Kerr (Raphoe) 'R.I.P.';

Rev.S.Culhane;

Rev.J.Egan (Waterford);

Rev.B.Geraghty (Ardagh);
Rev.J.Lee;
Rev.J.Marmion O.S.B. (Maredsous)(note on reverse left June 1881);
Rev.W.Callaghan (Sydney);
Rev.Dr.O'Horan (Sydney);
Rev.M.Goldrick (U.S.A.);
Rev.B.O'Keeffe (Cloyne)(holograph dedication on reverse June 1879 'my dear Michael'- note he left '9 ½ p.m.July 5th 1879');
William Lee 'R.I.P.' (note on reverse 'died Monday Morning June 2nd 1879');
Rev.E.Hackett;
Rev.Ch.Lawless (Dublin);
Rev.Egan (Propaganda Fide);
Rev.McDonnell;
Giovanni Audo (inscription on the back to Rev.D.Guglielmo Burke);
William E.Degnan [wrong caption for Rev.McElhenney] (holograph dedication on reverse, note he left 1881);
Rev.J.Monahan;
Daniel O'Connell (inscription by O'Riordan – photograph belonged to Jim O'Connell; details of his life);
Regina Coeli.

PA/CUR1/ 1-9

St.Patrick's Purgatory, Lough Derg, County Donegal (no date, no publisher)

Presentation album

Provenance: [unknown, probably presented to the College during Curran's rectorship 1930-1939]

Amount: 9 (all 18x16 cm)

Dates: [post-1932] (date of finishing the new basilica)

Commentary: tan leather-bound album with gilt lettering; all edges gilt, photographs mounted (cannot be removed). Captions printed.

Image-forming substance/binder/support: to be established

Conservation remarks: good condition. Could benefit from interleaving pages.

Scope and content:

This is a 'luxurious souvenir album' with black-and-white images of the basilica of St.Patrick's Purgatory; the way it reached the College is unclear.

Item-level:

These are mostly views of the (new) basilica, taken from Lough Derg and from the island itself, with a detail of the main entrance, and several views of the interior, including the sanctuary and the choir gallery.

PA/CULL/1-

Personal photograph album of Roman student years

Provenance: James Felix Cullen, diocese of Armagh. Identification 1) handwritten inscription 'R.Cullen, Magherafelt, County Derry', 2) box of 119 negatives

Amount: 91 (all 8x5cm) and one negative, slotted in like a print.

Dates: [1924-1930] (enrolled as student)

Commentary: Cloth-bound album (floral pattern), photographs slotted into designated spaces, no captions. Image-forming substance/binder/support: to be established

Conservation remarks: Good condition; will benefit from interleaving.

Scope and content:

This is student Cullen's personal photograph album, with mementos of life in Rome and in Tivoli, with many group and individual portraits, some domestic scenes and scenes from excursions around Rome.

Item-level:

c.5 portraits - only one identifiable (Monsignor Domenico Tizi p.10), c.11 group photographs, students' living spaces, student asleep (p.13), student tanning (p.3), parrot (p.23), excursions to Villa Adriana, Orvieto; march of Italian [civic guards]; the only non-Italian scenes seem to be of [Irish bog landscape p.24]; [Lourdes basilica p. 23].

