

THE NEW COLLECTION GUIDE

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



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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.

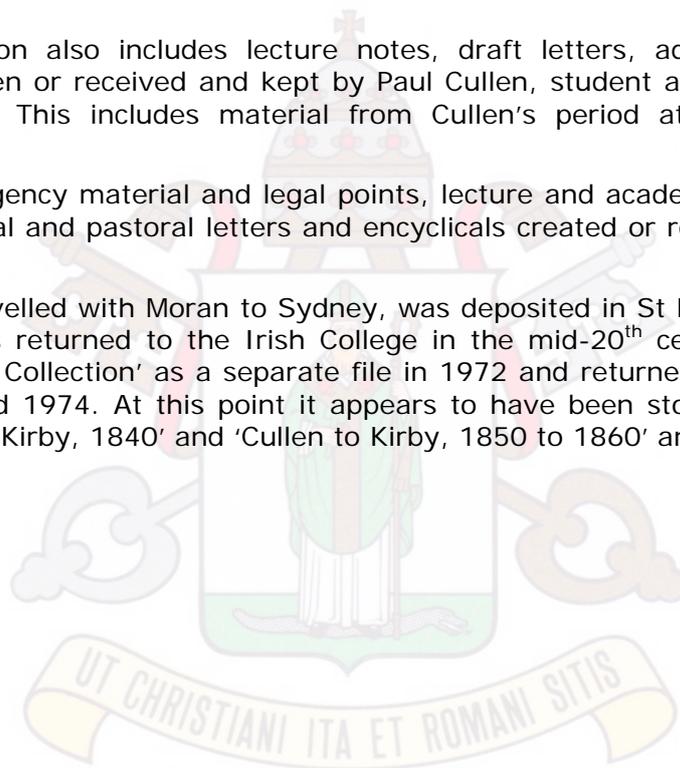
The New Collection mainly consists of incoming mail received and kept by the four rectors (Blake, Boylan, Cullen, Kirby) during their rectorships.

- 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)

Content

PreCullen New Collection (PCUL/NC) 1759-1825.

This series includes the following

- Letters from Irish bishops to Rome regarding requests and disputes. (e.g. Archbishop Murray of Dublin, Bishop Coppinger of Cloyne and Ross, Archbishop O'Reilly of Armagh)
- Letters to Irish bishops from missionary clergy in the United States often requesting clergy. (especially to Archbishop Murray of Dublin)
- Correspondence and documentation dealing with financial matters in the immediate years after the closure of the college during the French occupation. (including correspondence with Giovanni Bacile, Procuratore del Collegio Ibernese; Antonio Cavazzi, Esaltore del Collegio Ibernese; Cardinale Ercolani; Antonio Bassich, Propaganda Fide)
- Letters to Michael Blake, Rector of the Irish College and a draft-letter book created by Michael Blake during 1825. (includes copies of letters addressed to Dr Murray, Archbishop of Dublin relating to the re-establishment of the college between 1824 and 1826 copied from the Dublin Diocesan/ Dromore Archives)
- Letters to Christopher Boylan. (in particular containing details of a dispute between Michael Blake, former Rector and Christopher Boylan, Rector of the Irish College)

Cullen New Collection (CUL/NC) c1820-1851

This series includes the following

- Papers from Cullen's period as a student at Propaganda. (Includes draft notes on moral theology, philosophy, scripture, history, sermon notes and memoranda much of which is in Cullen's hand).
- Papers from Cullen's period as Office Holder at Propaganda Fide. (Mainly includes financial and administrative documents from the 'Stamperia' [Printing Press] and Library at Propaganda Fide and notes by Cullen for the Hebrew Bible project. Also includes list of books from the Irish College and poetry composed by Cullen and others.)
- Draft letters and documents by Cullen from the early days of his rectorship. (Includes draft letters to members of the Irish hierarchy and the Vatican on subjects such as Catholic education, including a draft letter-book kept by Cullen between 1833 and 1836).
- Dated correspondence received by Cullen (Covers Cullen's entire tenureship as rector of the Irish College with the bulk of the material coming from the 1842-1849 period. Includes dated correspondence to Cullen, correspondence to third parties and drafts and translations by Cullen.)

Topics include

- Cullen's efforts to secure the status and finances of the College
- Cullen's work as agent of the Irish hierarchy in the 1830s
- Attempts to procure compensation for the loss of the Belgian Colleges
- Reports and requests from missionary bishops in Canada, US, India, Australia, West Indies- Dr Carew of Madras, William Walsh of Halifax and John England of Charlestown.
- Regular reports from Rev James McCann and later George Fottrell regarding the Irish College account in Dublin
- Letters from former students some of whom actively lobbied for the college including Norris, Corr and Edmond O'Reilly, Maynooth College
- Travelogues from journeying correspondents including Cullen himself.
- Disputes between Archbishops Murray of Dublin and MacHale of Tuam over proposals for National School Education and the Charitable Bequests Bill.
- Disputes over the Queen's Colleges- letters from Dr MacHale, Dr Slattery, Dr Cantwell, Dr Miley and others opposing the Queen's Colleges.
- Letters relating to the election of the new Archbishop of Armagh during 1849
- Draft reports of the Irish College prepared by Cullen.

- o Other topics include letters from Theobald Matthew and Christian Brother superior Michael O'Riordan; requests for dispensations and commissions to purchase items; an eyewitness account of O'Connell's incarceration by the Chaplain of Richmond Gaol; conflict in Halifax amongst Irish settlers regarding the Repeal movement; struggles to assert hierarchical control in the West Indies and Indies missions; charitable donations for Famine relief sent to Dr Murray from Canada and the US; support for Famine relief from the English Rosminians and the Papacy; concern expressed over the Pope's exile from Rome and controversy over the appointment of Dr Walsh over Dr Hanlon as Bishop of Kilkenny.
- o Draft sermons and addresses by Archbishop-elect Cullen, frank letters of advice from Edmond O'Reilly and JJ Taylor of Carlow College, and a heartfelt farewell address from Dr Kirby.

Kirby New Collection (KIR/NC) 1840-1895

(At time of writing this series is uncatalogued- please contact the archivist archives@irishcollege.org to receive an up-to-date version of the catalogue and an overview of the contents of Kirby New Collection)

This series includes the following

- Kirby Correspondence 1840-1895. Mainly letters received by Kirby but also letters to students and staff of the College, letters to Vice-rector Smith, letters to third parties forwarded to Kirby. *Mirrors* material contained in the 'core' Kirby Collection. This series however includes most of the letters from Archbishop Cullen to Kirby between 1850 and 1860. In these letters Cullen candidly discusses the issues that preoccupy him, often seeking Kirby's assistance in personally liaising with Propaganda Fide officials.
- Drafts of outgoing letters 1841-1894
- Kirby Correspondence- undated or undated and unidentified
- Kirby's lecture and academic notes, spiritual and devotional material and pastoral letters and encyclicals and prose from Fanny Kirby.

Access and Use

Access conditions.

Physical: open access.

Virtual: open access subject to copyright. Material digitized to a resolution of 200 dpi and is being made available at <http://www.cflr.beniculturali.it/Patrimonio/IstitutiCulturali/CPI.php>. (Note- digitization project is ongoing- for further details please contact the archivist of the Irish College at archives@irishcollege.org)

Language:

English, Italian, Latin, French, Greek

Finding aids:

The catalogue for The New Collection is in the process of being written- it will be merged with the digital images on this website- for further details please contact the archivist of the Irish College at archives@irishcollege.org)

Researches should also consult Patrick J Corish's guide to the Kirby Papers published in three parts in Archivium Hibernicum the Journal of the Catholic Record Society of Ireland. Archivium Hibernicum Volume XXX 1972 pp29-116; Volume XXXI 1973 pp1-94; Volume XXXII 1974 pp1-62. It was not the author's intention to describe all the letters but rather to create a selective guide. However it is particularly useful in its treatment of Archbishop Cullen's correspondence with Dr Kirby.

Related material:

Researchers should also consult the Cullen Collection (CUL/), the Kirby Collection (KIR.) and Cullen Supplements (CUL/AME, CUL/OCO, CUL/TBG) and their related catalogues

For information on Michael Blake's restoration of the College, researchers should consult Michael Curran's article in *Dublin Diocesan Historical Record*, vol 1, no 2 1856, pp 434-442 or Mon Hanly's account in *The Coelian* 1970 (The magazine of the Irish College Rome). Further details available at <http://www.irishcollege.org/> or from archives@irishcollege.org

Archivist, Irish College Rome.

