

IRELAND

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

MR BRENDAN O DONOGHUE — DIRECTOR

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2001 – 2002

The year 2001 saw continued development of the National Library of Ireland's collections and further significant advances in the electronic collections database. A number of special projects were initiated and, as these progress, collections which have hitherto been neglected will become available to Library users. These and other developments were made possible by a welcome increase in staff numbers.

Individual developments of note during the year include the following:

- Public expenditure on the operation and development of the Library totalled over €9.5 million.
- While overall staff numbers remain low by international comparison, meaningful progress has been made in terms of increasing staff numbers. The number of authorised posts increased to 103, eleven more than at the end of 2000 and 50% above the end of 1998 figure.
- Almost €2.4 million was allocated to collection development some important manuscript collections and other materials were acquired; among these were the archives of Westport House, the family and estate archives of the Leslies of Castle Leslie.
- The tax credit scheme provided by Section 1003 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997 has enabled the Library to acquire a number of important individual manuscripts and entire collections, and has contributed very substantially to the development of the Library's holdings. Under the scheme, in 2001, the EBS Building Society kindly presented a large collection of Sean O'Casey's papers consisting of over 5,000 individual documents, including notebooks, music, drawings and correspondence. As few of his manuscripts were hitherto available for study in Ireland, many of them being held by libraries in the United States, this acquisition constitutes a major boost for O'Casey studies which will enable Irish scholars to fundamentally reappraise his contribution to Irish and world literature.
- Numbers using the specialist Genealogy Service during the year reached 12,800. This service, dedicated to the needs of family history researchers, continues to attract much favourable comment and has contributed significantly to overall improvements in the standard of Library services in recent year.
- The Ordnance Survey Map project - an important three-year project which will result in the complete rehousing of the collection commenced during the year.

- The Ephemera project was initiated with a view to ensuring the wider availability of the Library's unique ephemera collection, as well as developing a new collections policy.
- The appointment of two conservators to the permanent staff marks an important development in the Library's programme of collection care.
- Arrears of cataloguing, binding and other processing work continued to be reduced.
- Work on implementation of the Library Building Development Plan continued in 2001. This 9-phase will cost, in total, in the order of €88m. To date, major milestones have been reached in relation to 7 of the 9 phases.

ADDRESS:

Kildare Street
Dublin 2
Ireland

Tel: +353 1 603 0200

Fax: +353 1 676 6690

Email: bodonoghue@nli.ie

WWW: <http://www.nli.ie>