

To: Jim May, Máire Kennedy

From: Dolores O'Higgins

Re: Trip to Ireland

I have just returned from a three-week trip to Ireland, and I wanted to offer again my thanks for helping to make it possible. I was based in Dublin, which made it possible for me to look at Irish language manuscript material in the Royal Irish Academy and the National Library of Ireland. I also used Trinity's library in regard to some early printed book material. While in Dublin I met with Vincent Morley, an expert on the Irish poetry of eighteenth century, with whom I had been corresponding. I also met for the first time Professor Pádraig Ó Macháin of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, who, like Vincent, proved enormously kind and helpful. He arranged for me to have access to the DIAS' superb library, which made life much easier. The other Dublin-based scholar I met for the first time was Méidhbhín Ní Urdáail of UCD, an expert on the "manuscript men" of eighteenth century Ireland. She also was the soul of kindness.

During my second week in Ireland I made a trip to Cork, to speak at their Neo-Latin seminar, and to solicit their advice on my project also. Jason Harris, Emma Nic Chárthaigh and other members of the seminar were most helpful. While in Cork I had the opportunity also of hearing a talk by Keith Sidwell on a late 17th century Latin poem on the defeat of Boyne, and of meeting Clare O'Halloran, who has published on antiquarianism and on Irish identity in the eighteenth century. I also was able to spend a few profitable hours looking at some of the Irish manuscript holdings of Boole Library, where the librarians of their special collections were extraordinarily courteous and generous.

I have a mass of material to sort through now, and overall I feel much more informed about the ways in which Latin and Irish language material was interwoven in documents coming often from the hands of the poor or relatively so.