

Jackie Clarke Library and Archives  
an application for funding prepared  
by Mayo County Council, April 2008





Jackie Clarke Library and Archives, an application for funding prepared by Mayo County Council, April 2008



## CONTENTS

Letter from County Manager and Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council	4
The Jackie Clarke Library and Archives	5
Executive Summary	6
The Jackie Clarke Library Collection	7
Jackie Clarke	8–9
The Collection	10–13
Irish Language/Gaeilge	14–15
The Bequest	16–19
The Site Location and Building	20–21
The Jackie Clarke Library and Archives: the Future	22
The Vision	23
The Design Concept	24–29
Development Costs and Funding	30
Benefits	31
A Final Word	32–33
<i>Appendix: A Selection of Treasures from the Jackie Clarke Library</i>	<i>i–iv</i>



I Chontae Mhaigh Eo sa bhliain 2005, thagathas ar an leabharlann phriobháideach de stair na hÉireann is súntasaí ar domhain. Ba í Comhairle Chontae Mhaigh Eó a spreag an fhionnachtainn iontach seo, atá fíor-thabhachtach i stair chultúrtha na tíre.

In 2005, in Mayo, the most impressive private library of Irish history anywhere in the world was uncovered in Mayo. The remarkable discovery instigated by Mayo County Council is a milestone in Ireland's cultural history.

Due to the generosity of Mrs Ann Clarke who has gifted in perpetuity her husband's library and archives to Mayo County Council, the Irish nation and the world will have access to this unique and priceless collection.

The Jackie Clarke Library and Archive now under the stewardship of Mayo County Council will become a premier education and cultural centre of international significance. Mayo County Council has embraced the opportunity of showcasing this library and archives to the highest international standards. This library represents sustainable tourism at its best, focusing on the growing market for culture and heritage tourism worldwide. The Jackie Clarke Library and Archives will be a world-class facility for those seeking 'an authentic experience' in Ireland.

Ireland's newest national treasure is an amenity of international status. As we approach the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Rising, the War of Independence and the foundation of the State it is timely that this collection with its vast amounts of unique material relating to revolutionary Irish history shall be made accessible for the first time.

The Jackie Clarke Library and Archives will make Ballina an end destination supporting, complimenting and developing further Mayo's formidable array of cultural, heritage and natural amenities. Ireland West airport, within a short distance, will facilitate scholars coming from all over the world to pursue research at this remarkable education centre.

The recently acquired landmark building, the former Provincial Bank in Ballina will become home to this outstanding collection. Designed by Thomas Manly Deane, architect of some of Ireland's finest buildings including the National Library and National museum, it is appropriate that another of his buildings will house Ireland's newest national treasure. It is a gem of a building, housing the jewel in Mayo's cultural crown.

This project requires capital funding of 17 million euro to achieve the highest international best practice standards for the archive and library, ensuring that it will be a premier showcase for Ireland's heritage and history.

**Mr Des Mahon**  
*Mayo County Manager*

**Mr Seamus Weir**  
*Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council*



**Mr Seamus Weir**  
*Cathaoirleach of Mayo  
County Council*



**Mr Des Mahon**  
*Mayo County Manager*

## The Jackie Clarke Library and Archives

‘It is remarkable that the people of the town have now this collection in their hands, and through the stewardship of the County Council, the County Library and the new curator, Ms. Sinéad McCoole, are in a position to put Ballina on both the tourist and research map in a new exciting way. That the collection has enormous tourist value, I have no doubt. The drawing power of the Wolfe Tone, 1916 and War of Independence material alone will ensure the drawing power of the Jackie Clarke Library.’

### **Professor Luke Gibbons**

*Director Irish Studies  
University of Notre Dame  
Indiana*

### **National and international significance**

This library shares the international stage with collections such as the Rosenbach Museum and Library in Philadelphia and the Chester Beatty in Dublin. It compliments the rare books collection at Trinity College, the manuscripts collection housed in the National Library, the collections of Kilmainham Jail and the Brother Allen Library. The 1798 collection is without compare and contains the finest and rarest of items. The film archive is a unique and the only recorded moving images of historical events in Ireland during the 1950s and 1960s. The modern Irish history collection makes it a ‘Southern’ Linenhall Library.

### **Unique and priceless**

Containing the only known copies of documents and books to exist anywhere, this collection is placed as one of the greatest and most valuable Irish libraries in the world. Along with irreplaceable unpublished political writings and speeches, rare street literature and circulars and priceless manuscripts the collection also contains personal items belonging to key political figures of the past such as Theobald Wolfe Tone, PH Pearse, Sir Roger Casement, Jeremiah O’Donovan Rossa and Dr Douglas Hyde to name but a few.

### **An icon for our nation’s identity**

Jackie Clarke created this library in Mayo, the cradle of Irish Republicanism in 1798. It is an expression of one man’s participation in truth, his search for knowledge. He saw himself as a custodian of material for the future; he collected the evidence that would both expressed and challenge Ireland’s identity in the future. It will not be possible for any historian, writer or scholar to fully appreciate the story of Ireland or Irish events over the past 400 years without consulting this library.

## Executive Summary

In 2005, one of the most remarkable libraries of Irish history in private hands was discovered in Mayo, and gifted in perpetuity to Mayo County Council by Mrs. Anne Clarke. Truly a national treasure, the Jackie Clarke Library and Archives is now under the stewardship of Mayo County Council and will become an international centre for cultural tourism, scholarship and education.

This breath-taking library was put together in the lifetime of one man, the modest but meticulous Jackie Clarke (1928-2000), a connoisseur among book collectors. There is nothing to rival it anywhere among private collections of Irish books and memorabilia in the world.

Containing vast amounts of primary material including the only known copies of numerous printed publications as well as unique manuscripts, this library is of Ireland, about Ireland, and the heirloom of Irish people. At once local, national and international, it will be a unique focal point for a profound, living engagement with history as Ireland prepares to celebrate the centenary of the 1916 Rising, the foundation of the modern Irish state, and beyond. By its sheer range and diversity, the library has no one theme, no single political view point: it is, in effect, a vast echo chamber in which Irish people can hear the myriads of voices that speak of Ireland past, present and to come.

In accordance with her late husband's wishes, Mrs Anne Clarke agreed to give the Jackie Clarke Library and Archives in perpetuity to Mayo County Council on condition that the collection remains permanently in Ballina, County Mayo.

A landmark building, the former Provincial Bank on Pearse Street, Ballina has been purchased by Mayo County Council to house this collection. This building complex, that includes a walled garden and stables shall accommodate the full potential of this Library as a major educational and cultural centre in Ireland.

The project needs capital funding of €17 million to achieve the highest international best practise standards for archives and library.

The creation of this culturally authentic and landmark library will honour its creator, underscore its immense value and ensure its future growth. The Jackie Clarke Library and Archives will be a place which embodies Ireland's cultural identity in the 21st century.

‘He held rare and unique items in a reverence which is unintelligible to the common man and was attracted to them by some law of affinity like that which attracts iron filings to a magnet.’

**Éamonn de Búrca**

*Publisher, collector and rare book and manuscript dealer*

## **The Jackie Clarke Library Collection**

**Its breath and importance once only known to its creator is now being made available to all. It is one of the most important Irish collections in the world.**

This incredible library containing over 100,000 items including many unique documents that scholars had believed to be lost, sole surviving copies of publications, rare handbills and proclamations, unpublished manuscripts and political writings. The sheer range of this collection is breath taking.

It was put together during the lifetime of one man Jackie Clarke, (1928-2000). Spanning nearly 400 years of Irish history; its earliest documents date from the early 1600s its final documents were collected by Jackie Clarke in 2000, the year of his death.

This treasure trove of items can be compared with the scale of other collectors around the world, but in Irish terms, in the era it was collected, Jackie Clarke stands alone as the single most important private collector; an Irishman collecting Irish history for his own people.

***‘Its story is the story of one man’s passion for preserving the history of his people. It is the story of a Ballina man – a Mayo man, an Irishman – who devoted his entire life to the acquisition and safeguarding of a nation’s historical legacy. It is the story of a man called Jackie Clarke.’***

**JAMES LAFFEY**

*Editor of the Western People*

## Jackie Clarke

*'Learning was in his genes, he was a kinsman of Brother Michael O'Cleary, Chief of the Four Masters, compiler of *The Annals of the Four Masters...*'*

## Eamonn de Búrca

Jackie Clarke was born John Thomas Clarke in O'Rahilly Street, Ballina County Mayo in March of 1928 into a well-to-do business family, the eldest of three children of John and Loretta Clarke.

As a schoolboy at Blackrock College, in his search for the truth of contemporary events, then aged just fourteen, he visited the Book Bureau run by Joe Clarke, veteran of the 1916 Rising, a survivor of the Mount Street Bridge battle. This friendship was the cornerstone for the building of this fine library.

At the age of eighteen Jackie himself built up a business and became one of the pioneers of the smoked salmon industry, establishing a worldwide brand. His prosperity in business allowed him to purchase rare and important documents while his political and commercial interests meant that he was also amassing a wealth of literature, documentation and newspapers as he recorded history as it was unfolding.

*'The early teenage passion of collecting newspapers and journals was to evolve into an all-consuming past-time as he moved into manhood. Jackie decided that if no-one else was going to preserve the history of Ireland he would do it himself.'*

### LORETTA CLARKE MURRAY

sister of Jackie Clarke



Jackie Clarke, Rome 1952

‘The Jackie Clarke papers comprise a unique collection reflecting the life and times of a man devoted to Irish affairs and politics, who excelled as a local businessman and philanthropist. His lifelong collection of material from Ireland’s modern revolutionary period survives as a singular and eclectic archive of maps, papers, correspondents and most importantly newspapers.

The value of this material at an academic level is immense and will undoubtedly remain a focus for research for many years to come. The collection needs to consolidate its location as a focus for local achievement and pride. To such ends it is important that it is deposited in a building where the potential of the collection can be securely exhibited and equally where it can reach beyond its local relevance to appeal to a global audience.’

**Angus Mitchell**

*Historian and Author, University of Limerick*

The value of the library is incalculable – it is unique and priceless. It is Ireland’s newest national treasure. Jackie Clarke never saw this for its monetary value; he saw wealth rested in knowledge.

An ordinary man with an extraordinary passion for Ireland’s history and love of his country, his collection has something for everyone, its cohesion is that is of Ireland, about Ireland and the Irish – in its breath it is at once local, national and international.



**Clarke coat of arms**  
*'Non Sibi' translates as*  
*'not for himself'*

## The Collection

For many years it has been acknowledged by the cognoscenti as one of the most remarkable libraries on this island but no antiquarian book dealer knew of its totality, they only knew their part, what they had sold him. No one knew of its vastness. This was revealed in 2005.

To date over 100,000 items have been listed within the collection. The listing is still being compiled by historian and author Sinéad McCooile on behalf of Mayo County Council and a preliminary inventory will be completed by the summer of 2008, three years after the project commenced.

The collection over 100,000 items — comprises many rare and important books on the history of Ireland, manuscripts, photographs, legal papers, pamphlets, hand-bills, newspapers, news-sheets, circulars, reports, autograph books, letters, periodicals, cartoons, maps, minute books, theses, articles and proclamations — including 1916 and the rarer 1917 proclamation — the sheer range of this collection is breath-taking manuscripts. The first item dates from 1617 and the material spans 400 years.

‘I found myself opening a wonder-box of national treasures, and this time I was not preparing its contents for sale to the four corners of the world. This was a pure joy’.

**Sinéad McCooile**

*Historian and Curator of the Jackie Clarke Library and Archives*

clockwise from left:

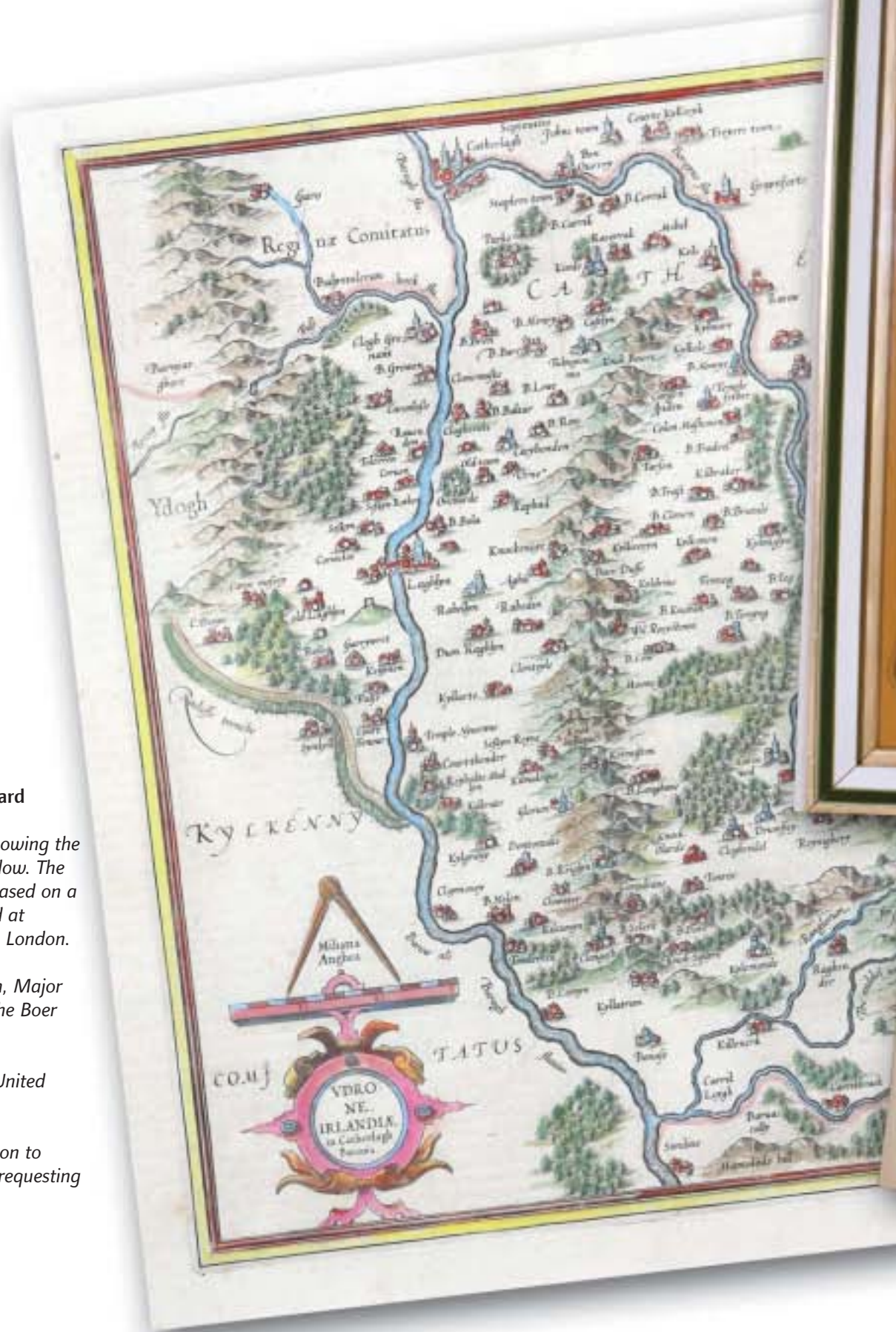
'Vdrone Irlandiae', Gerard Mercator, c.1619.

This is a printed map showing the present day County Carlow. The map is most probably based on a manuscript original held at Lambeth Palace Library, London.

Flag used by Mayo man, Major John MacBride during the Boer War

Handbill issued by the United Irishmen 1798

Letter from Major Lennon to Fr. Aloysius 2 May 1916 requesting that he visit PH Pearse.



There are collections within the collection, which by their scale and importance would be the centrepiece in any other library or archive. These collections will have immense drawing power for academics as they contain unpublished and unique material. Future research on the collection in the Jackie Clarke Library and Archives will yield new scholarship and create new perspectives on Irish history.

**Louis Le Roux Collection:** French author of biographies of PH Pearse and Tom Clarke;

**Ernie O'Malley Collection:** Literary papers of the War of Independence and Civil War activist;

**Dr Douglas Hyde:** Personal papers and Gaelic League Collection of Ireland's first President;

**The Doyle Collection:** Thomas Doyle was Vice-President of Sinn Fein, contains prison letters and material relating to the publication of *The United Irishman*;

**Joseph Mary Plunkett Collection:** a selection of books from the library of the 1916 leader;

**Brigid Connolly Collection:** this material from an Executive Member of Cumann na mBan, including her first hand account of 1916, her correspondence during 1916 and the papers of the Nurse O'Farrell Commemoration Committee;

**Correspondence of the Evicted Tenants Association;**

the personal effects of **HW Nevison**, journalist and author of *Changes and Chances*; Irish Language Books.

... and with ongoing cataloguing, many more collections.

*'I'm thirty years in the business and it gets to the stage where it is hard to find things you have not seen before but I've only been looking at this collection for ten minutes and already I've seen things I didn't know existed. His first loyalty was to Ireland and its history – he felt he was duty bound to preserve Ireland's past and political ideologies never interfered with his work as a historian. I think he was fairly unique in that respect and he was well known in the business as someone who was an honest broker and a genuine connoisseur collector.'*

**PETER ROWAN**

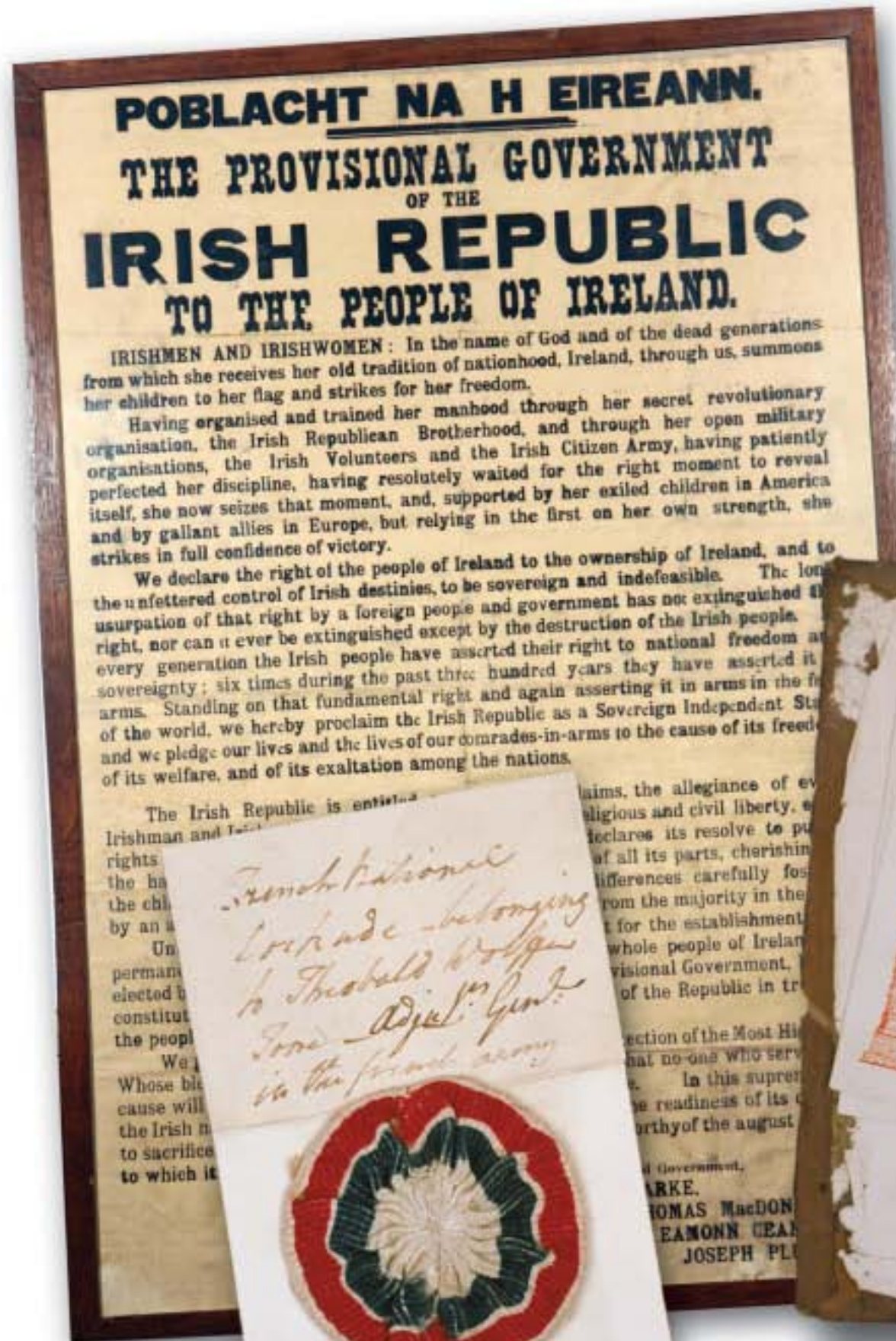
Antiquarian bookseller, Belfast

quoted in the *Western People*, April 18, 2006

'The research value of the Jackie Clarke Library lies not only in its volume but also in its range. Jackie's nationalist and republican interests, which give the collection its basic coherence, went beyond the usual break-off point for such collections with the ending of the Civil War in 1922–24, so that it contains very important material on the relatively under-researched period of Irish Republicanism between independence and outbreak of the troubles in 1969.'

**Pat Cooke**

*former Curator of the Kilmainham Jail Museum and Pearse Museum, now Director of MA in Policy and Arts Management, University College Dublin.*



clockwise from left:

Copy of the 1916 Proclamation

Poster advertising talk by James Connolly. New York 1910

Bible and certificate of confirmation for Douglas Hyde, 7 July 1876, later to be first President of Ireland. The bible is translated from Greek to Irish and is dated 1816.

French National Cockade belonging to Theobald Wolfe Tone, Adjutant General in the French Army, believed to have been worn on his hat during his trial

## Irish Language/Gaeilge

Jackie Clarke was committed to the Irish language. In the 1940s he studied in the Mayo Gaeltacht to perfect his own spoken and written Irish. His library and archive contain many volumes written in the Irish language.

Many of the rare and early books in Irish in the collection once belonged to Dr Douglas Hyde, including Hyde's New Testament Bible translated from Greek to Irish, dating to 1816. The Jackie Clarke Library and Archives also holds Hyde's papers relating to the Gaelic League as well as housing material relating to The Society for the Preservation of the Irish language.

Bhí Jackie Clarke tiomanta don Ghaeilge. Ins na Naoi Déag Daichidí rinne sé staidéar i nGaeltacht Mhaigh Eo chun barr feabhais a chur ar a chuid Gaeilge labhartha agus scríofa féin. Ina leabharlann agus cartlann tá go leor imleabhar scríofa i nGaeilge.

Ba leis an Dr. Dubhghlas de hÍde ag uair amháin go leor de na leabhair uathúla agus luath-leabhair ins an bhailiúchán seo, Bíobla Tiomna Nua de hÍde aistrithe ón Ghréigis go Gaeilge dátaithe 1816 san áireamh. Tá, i Leabharlann agus Cartlanna Jackie Clarke freisin, páipéir de hÍde maidir le Conradh na Gaeilge, chomh maith le cóiríocht d'ábhar bainteach le Cumann buan-choimeádta na Gaeilge.

# AN CLAIÐHEAMH SOLUIS

[AN CLAIÐHEAMH SJLUIS.]  
AN FAINNE AN LAE.

Leathar VI. 1000  
No. 11

DUBLIN, SATURDAY, 1910

[Registered as a Newspaper]

**For Best Value in TIP TOP TAILORING**  
TRY

**R. SKELTON,**  
9 LR. SACKVILLE STREET,  
40 & 41 AUNGIER STREET.

ALL WOOL SORTS, 200  
TROUSERS, 12s.  
IRISH.  
They ARE IRISH, and a  
second guarantee is given  
with every pair.

**PHONOGRAPHS,  
GRAMOPHONES,  
LARGEST AND BEST SELECTED  
STOCK IN IRELAND.**

**RECORDS,  
OVER 15,000** Edison, Columbia, and  
other makes for Irish Singers.

**JOHN O'NEILL,**  
13 & 14 SOUTH KING STREET,  
DUBLIN.

CASH PAYMENTS ARRANGED.

**Stained Glass  
Memorial Windows  
Campbell Bros.**  
15, 21 & 23 FORT ST. BELFAST

Don't forget to get Stained Glass  
Memorial Windows from Campbell Bros.

**KENNEDY'S  
BREAD...**  
FINEST QUALITY MADE

127 & 128 GREAT BRITAIN ST.  
DUBLIN.

**NOW READY.  
IRISH TEXTS SOCIETY'S  
Irish-English  
Dictionary**

EDITED BY  
**REV. P. S. DINNEEN, M.A.**

Can be obtained at the Dublin English Book  
Shop, Dublin, 21, 22 & 23, For The Year

**FARM IMPLEMENTS**  
OF EVERY DESCRIPTION, GO  
TO

**T. HENSHAW & CO.,**  
Manufacturers of Farm Implements,  
CHRISTCHURCH PLACE, DUBLIN.

**Practical Patriotism**

**IRISH POPLIN SCARFS,  
IRISH-MADE SHIRTS,  
IRISH HOSIERY,  
IRISH-MADE  
FOOTBALL JERSEYS  
CYCLING HOSE, &c., &c.**

**T. J. LOUGHLIN,**  
Irish Outfitting Specialist,  
19 PARLIAMENT STREET,  
LIMERICK.

Boots and Ham Curry, Lord  
Refiners, Manufacturers of the Finest  
Quality Savinags, Puddings, Coloured  
in Tin, Glass and Forelain.

**IRISH WOOLLENS**  
**DUBLIN WOOLLEN CO.,**  
15 BACHELORS WALK,  
Buy Length Cut for Cash,  
Wool Manufactured or Exchanged,  
Local Discontinued Prices. Patterns on application.

**PEARSE & SONS,**  
Sociological,  
Monumental and  
Architectural  
Sculpture.

Designs and Estimates on  
Application  
27 GT. BRUNSWICK ST.  
DUBLIN.

**O'BRIEN & CO'S  
Ginger Wine,**  
Invigorating & Delicious,  
HENRY PLACE, DUBLIN.

**W. J. GOGAN,**  
Sweet Manufacturers,  
Wholesale and Retail,  
184 GT. BRITAIN STREET,  
DUBLIN.

HAVE YOU TRIED THE NEW IRISH SOAP?  
**GLADIATOR**  
A PERFECT CLEANSER, SWEET AND PURE

**Cantrell & Cochrane's  
MINERAL WATERS**  
SPECIALITIES:  
Club Soda,  
Ginger Ale,  
Aromatic  
Club Ale.

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO IRISH-IRELANDERS.**  
REV. T. A. FINLAY'S School and College Series

**KANDEE**  
THE NEW IRISH SAUCE,  
Appetizing, Delicious, Digestive. PRICE, 2s. 6d. per bot. Samples, 1d.

**Traynor Bros.,**  
VICTUALLERS,  
75 GT. BRITAIN ST.,  
DUBLIN.

**IRISH WOOLLEN HALL**  
37 & 32 HIGH ST., Dublin.

**FALLON & CO., Ltd.,**  
DUBLIN & BELFAST.

## The Bequest

In 2005, in accordance with her late husband's wishes, Mrs Anne Clarke agreed to give the Jackie Clarke Library and Archives in perpetuity to Mayo County Council on condition that the collection remains permanently in Ballina, Co Mayo. Through consistent and unerring investment Mayo County Council has demonstrated ongoing commitment to protecting and preserving this remarkable library and offering to the public a unique resource for general and scholarly research for future generations.

When Mayo County Council appointed Sinead McCool, historian to create an inventory of the collection items were located all over the Clarke family home on shelves, in boxes and mixed with family items. After six months it was evident this was more not merely a collection but an archive. It was also evident that the library contained extremely rare and valuable material.

'The Collection, built up over the lifetime of its founder, must rank as the most remarkable to ever have been donated to public ownership. Its location in Ballina has to represent a real jewel in the crown for the town, and will surely attract thousands of visitors to the region as a result.'

**Seán Staunton**

*Editor, the Mayo News*

I can say I truly gasped when I saw the extraordinary Jackie Clarke collection at Ballina. Any Irish Studies programme, no matter how prestigious, would regard this as the jewel in the crown of their collection (if they were in a position to acquire it)...

It is difficult to do justice to the cultural and historical value of this collection: original letters from Wolfe Tone (including the tri-colour cockade from his hat on his arrest at Lough Swilly), and a stunning trove of 1798 printed material and memorabilia, not least relating to the 'Year of the French' in Mayo. The extraordinary and even more wide-ranging collection of 1916, War of Independence and Civil War memorabilia... I, for one, had not encountered the different printings of the 1916 Proclamation in one room.

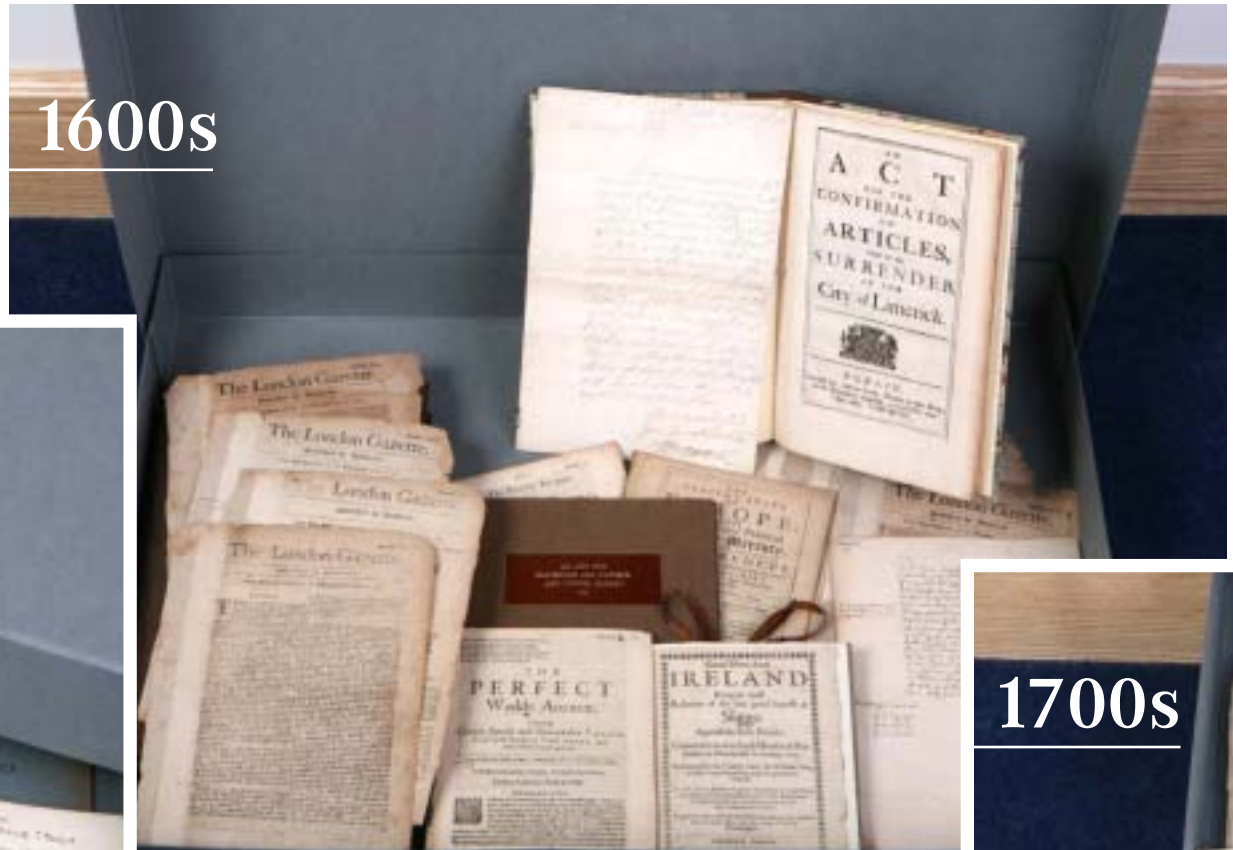
But apart from all this, it is the comprehensive and meticulous collection of material related to Mayo and

Connacht that took my breath away. To my amazement, every travel book on Connacht since the 18th century, including books I had never heard of and which are not even listed on WorldCat (the most comprehensive online catalogue in the world), is in Jackie Clarke's collection. But it is the research potential that is of most interest to me, as I hope provision will be made to allow scholars, both locally and internationally, to make full use of the archive, through funding for seminars, research fellowships, and education programmes. I, for one, will be to the forefront in ensuring that Irish Studies graduates at Notre Dame will be able to benefit from this extraordinary facility when it is opened to the public.

**Professor Luke Gibbons**

*Director, Graduate Programme, Irish Studies,  
University of Notre Dame, Indiana*

1600s



1900s



1700s



1800s



RIGHT:  
A selection of documents  
from four centuries.

‘It was always Jackie Clarke’s intention that Ballina should benefit from his magnificent library. He spent his whole life in the town and he loved its streets, its buildings and its people. He was also someone who was deeply respected and loved by his community - everyone knew that Jackie Clarke had the best interests of Ballina at heart. And, six years after his death, the full extent of his attachment to the town has been revealed.’

**James Laffey**  
*Editor, the Western People*

The Council commissioned Ann Scroope, interpretative planner and designer to create a development plan for collection within the county library building. The plan identified the content for exhibiting the Jackie Clarke Library, the facilities and operational planning, and media technologies to be employed. Although the full inventory was not as yet established, it was evident that the county library area was not large enough for exhibiting particular pieces, storage and providing a research facility.

By the end of 2006 the listing for the library had reached 80,000 items. A new find, the third edition of what is described as ‘the first newspaper’ the Oxford Gazette was discovered. Dated December 1665 and in perfect condition, this discovery brought a fresh wave of interest in the library.

In 2007 Mayo County Council acquired the former provincial bank as a permanent home for the Jackie Clarke Library and Archives and Sinéad McCoolle was appointed as Manager.

***‘We owe the late Jackie Clarke a debt of gratitude. The Mayo businessman has done our nation an incredible service.’***

**THE EDITOR**  
*Sunday Tribune*

## The Site Location and Building

It is especially fitting that the Provincial Bank is the new home for Jackie Clarke's lifetime's work as it is just down the street from where his parents established their successful businesses, where he was born, and lived all of his adult life.

Mayo County Council has selected an superb location to house the Jackie Clarke Memorial Library and Archives. The former Provincial Bank is an architectural gem in the centre of Ballina, on the main through-fare in the town.

The building was designed by Architect Thomas Manly Deane who worked with his father Thomas Newenham Deane on our most famous museum building, the museum of Science and Art at Kildare Street (now the National Museum). Deane also worked on the impressive complex that is now Government Buildings on Merrion Square, as well as the National Gallery and National Library. Something of the attention to detail and the fine craftsmanship that are the hallmarks of his work can be seen in the bank building in Ballina.

The building, which was in private use from the 1970s to 2007, remains today largely as it was when the last Bank Manager Tom FitzGibbon vacated the premises in 1976. The original banking hall survives as well as a walk-in safe, the substantial dwelling house with its period features, stable and the walled garden, remain as they were laid out at the end of the nineteenth century. The property will lends itself perfectly to becoming a public building for scholarly and cultural activities.

Mayo County Council commissioned Doherty Coleman Architects, to undertake a preliminary Conservation Report and Assessment of the property in February of this year. This report showed that the property is in generally in a good and sound condition.

It is envisaged that additional property will be required to meet long term storage needs for the vast collection of over 100,000 items and also to provide support services for the Library and Archive facility. Provision for such has been made in the estimated Development Costs outlined on the project.





*images of the former Provincial Bank, Ballina, the future home of the Jackie Clarke Library and Archive.*



## **The Jackie Clarke Library and Archives: the Future**

The mission of this development is to share with the wider community one man's inspirational dedication to a search for knowledge and a documentation of another truth.

The Jackie Clarke Library and Archives shall be a major education and cultural centre in Ireland: it shall be a unique focal point for Irish history.

In the coming years we will see the centenary of the founding of the state; documents in this collection will shed new light on these past events.

This unique Library and Archives will attract a global audience to examine the archives, to study, to research, to attend lectures and seminars. It will not be possible for researchers to provide the comprehensive story of Ireland and Irish events over the past 400 years without consulting this primary source.

'Jackie Clarke was a Ballina man, but his collecting instincts were far from parochial. He collected with a strategic historical eye that allowed him to put together a collection comprehensive in its range and of truly national importance.'

'It is an extraordinary thing to have in a town like Ballina and I think there will be immense benefits from it. There is huge research potential in the collection – basically it tells the story of Ireland from the 1600s right up to the present day. It is an incredible collection.'

### **Pat Cooke**

*Former Curator of the Kilmainham Jail Museum and Pearse Museum, now Director of MA in Policy and Arts Management, University College Dublin*

‘In age of knowledge societies, when cyber space has made us reconsider the archive, questions about history and evidence have been propelled in new directions. Since the founding of the Irish Free State, the trend in Ireland has been to privilege Dublin as the heir apparent of Irish knowledge. Thankfully, decentralisation has started to reverse this trend, and the peripheries of Ireland are starting to emerge as components of an integrated, balanced and inclusive whole.’

**Angus Mitchell**

*Historian and Author, University of Limerick*

## **The Vision**

The Library and Archive shall be an active living Centre serving the global community. It shall elevate Ballina into the sphere of international cultural destinations.

Beyond “a keeping place for a collection” or a “store house“, this new Library shall inspire respect and appreciation for a man who dared to imagine beyond his own life.

It shall be a resource of information and knowledge, a place for study and reflection. It shall offer indoor challenges and activities, educational and special activities programmes, changing exhibitions, specialist workshops, lectures, seminars and outdoor rest and recreation

Visitors to the Collection shall range from school groups, special interest groups, scholars, academic, tourists, to media personnel.

It will be an essential end destination for any historian/film maker/writer researching Irish history. It will cater for specialists but at the same time, in the spirit of the man who created it, it will not be an elite or exclusive institution, it will cater for the wider research community and for anybody with an interest in the past.

## The Design Concept

This treasure house of primary material is a rare book library, a newspaper library, a film archive, a photographic archive, a map library, an archive with everything from ancient manuscripts to illustrations to street literature to official government publications to illicit documentation. This is a gift of identity for future generations. It has no boundary, it has no one theme, it has no single political view point, its a place where hundreds of voices will speak to you of Ireland - past, present and future.

The Jackie Clarke Library and Archives shall offer an experience that is explorative, provocative and challenging. It shall be about engagement, it will increase our understanding of our past and present, between our perceptions of ourselves and the perceptions held by others. It shall have depth of character, be culturally authentic and unique.

The Library and Archives shall be accessible on a number of levels:

- digital access to pre-determined secured information
- supervised original document access by appointment
- permanent exhibitions
- changing themed exhibitions to mark anniversaries and commemorate events
- web access

The media for presenting aspects of the collection will range from verbal presentation, activities, audio visual technologies and computer-based interactives.

The Library shall be managed and curated by historian Sinéad McCooile and operated with a compliment of staff comprising, administrator, an IT specialist, conservator and floor staff that shall provide supervision and information the collection.

RIGHT:  
*Artist's impression of the Library  
research area*

‘Jackie had a passion for original sources and that is what you find in this collection. It’s all about primary sources... All the newspapers, pamphlets, broadsides, leaflets that we see here – they were all produced by people with a view to changing other people’s minds. It is street literature and Jackie understood that... Jackie knew what was important.’

**Peter Rowan**

*Antiquarian bookseller, Belfast*



## The Design Concept (continued)

RIGHT:  
*Artist's impression of the  
Exhibition area*

This Centre shall comprise of dedicated archive and secure library research areas, exhibition galleries, dedicated conservation and digitising facilities, retail and cafe amenities, live performance areas and offices.

For the scholar of Irish Studies there will be a prominent research facility accessed on three levels: digital access to pre-determined secured information, supervised original document access by appointment and web access.

Three permanent exhibitions shall capture the broader stories of both the collection and the collector- illustrating the scope and diversity of material and showcasing the popular treasures within it.

### **A Sense of the Nation**

the “popular” treasures of the collection – a series of artefacts relating to Irish revolutionary history.

### **What You May Find**

a selection of items to illustrate the detail and diversity of the collection. The arrangement of these shall be in chronological order- 1600–2000.

### **The Jackie Clarke Room**

A presentation on the life of Jackie Clarke and his legacy.

His belief in education and the unquantifiable effect, his ideology, how and why he collected, his work, his films, the societies he formed, his ambitions.

The exhibition themes will concentrate on the centenary period 1916–1923, which in the coming decade will be marking key events one hundred years on– the 1916 Rising, the War of Independence, the creation of the State and the Civil War.



## The Design Concept (continued)

RIGHT:  
*Artist's impression of the exterior*

“We owe the late Jackie Clarke a debt of gratitude. The Mayo businessman has done our nation an incredible service.”

**The Editor**  
*Sunday Tribune*



## Development Costs and Funding

The outline budget for the development of the Jackie Clarke Library and Archives at Pearse Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo is 17million euro.

This submission forms an application for grant assistance of 100% of the projected capital costs of the project from Central Government.

A breakdown of the estimated development costs are as follows:

Purchase of properties.	€5,000,000
Refurbishment and Fit-out of Provincial Bank and Coach House for Exhibition Library & Archive purposes	€5,930,000
Refurbishment and Fit-out of additional property for storage and support services.	€1,620,000
Site Development works & garden refurbishment	€530,000
VAT on capital works	€1,261,425
Miscellaneous Costs	€530,000
Consultancy Fees	€1,955,360
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€16,826,785</b>

Mayo County Council shall be responsible for the development, the operation, the management and the future safe-keeping of the Jackie Clarke Library and Archive.

Ms Sinead McCoolle, manager of the Library, is currently establishing a collections policy addressing accession and de-accession procedures, levels of access to the collection, duplications, disaster planning, security and the type of material to be collected in the future. Conservation and digitising of the most delicate/ high risk items within the collection is ongoing

The next stages for the development comprise:

### Stage One

Creation of Strategic Plan by team of experts, directed by Scroope Design  
This shall address detailed specifications and costs for

- Design of site, buildings and landscaping
- Conservation, storage and display of collection to best practice standards
- Digitising and programme architecture for access to collection
- Environmental control and security systems
- Management and operations as will be dictated by the final complement of activities to be housed in the new facility
- Operational costs
- Marketing costs
- Revenue streams
- Universal access to all services
- Implementation Programme
- Target phasing
- Creation of brand identity and design of full compliment of promotional material
- Creation of marketing plan
- Design of dedicated web-site
- Appointment of full compliment of staff

### Stage Two

- Launch of brand and marketing campaign
- Launch of dedicated web-site
- Preparation of full collection catalogue
- Commission of full architectural and design services

### Stage Three

- Implementation of site and building works
- Launch of digital access to collection via the internet

### Stage Four

- Transfer of collection to site
- Creation of exhibitions
- Launch of the Jackie Clarke Library and Archives in new location

‘The Clarke Library will provide a renewed cultural orientation to the emerging and modern landscape of Ireland. It will contribute to the cultural, social and economic development of Ballina. It will put Ballina on the map for research and scholarship. It is the finest Irish private collection.’

**Austin Vaughan**  
*Mayo County Librarian*

## **Benefits**

This facility will enhance the network of museums and tourist attractions in Mayo. Flanked on either side by two major tourist destinations, the National Museum’s Folklife Collection at Turlough Park and The Céide Fields in Ballycastle, the Jackie Clarke Library is ideally located as a complimentary visitor site in County Mayo.

The development of Ballina as Ireland’s newest tourist destination has already begun, three new hotels have opened in the past two years, including Mount Falcon House Hotel and The Ice House both capitalising on their historic structures, and refurbishing existing buildings of note. Public projects undertaken by Mayo County Council include the Belleek Forest Park and a proposed pedestrian bridge across the Moy due to commence in 2008.

One of the key targets in the future marketing of Ireland is the focus on high-end tourism such as of ‘culture and knowledge’ tourism. The Jackie Clarke Library and Archive will deliver this in a unique and enduring way, while at the same time making Ballina a natural centre of what is Mayo’s current formidable array of cultural, heritage and natural amenities.

Fáilte Ireland have shown an increase in the numbers of tourist who are attracted to specific destinations by culture and heritage. The Jackie Clarke Library and Archives will draw people to the north west of Mayo and make it Ireland’s newest cultural hub. This amenity will have iconic status due to the uniqueness of the collection, which will make it a facility of international standing.

## **A Final Word**

Honouring its creator and underscoring its immense value, it is essential that this library will be showcased to the highest international standard, enabling its full authority to be explored and examined by scholars at home and abroad. And, as importantly, enabling Ballina take a new position as an international destination for scholarship and education in Irish history

While there have been bequests made to this country by other collectors such as Chester Betty and the Hunt Family, this is a collection of solely Irish material, collected by an Irishman for his own people. There is nothing to rival it anywhere among private collections of Irish books and memorabilia in the world.

The Jackie Clarke Library and Archives shall be the place which embodies Ireland's cultural identity, in the 21st century.

To date Mayo County Council have demonstrated their commitment to preserving and safe-keeping this magnificent collection through ongoing investments, appointment of a full time manager and commission of independent studies for the project development.

It is now time to provide this collection with a dedicated home, with conservation, storage, and display facilities and to enable full and secure access to the public. An initial study identifies a capital funding requirement of €17 million to ensure all elements of the Library and Archives are executed to best practice standards. This level of investment is not just reflective of the value of the collection on an open market but it is reflective of the cultural and economic benefits this Centre will bring to Ballina.

‘The Jackie Clarke Collection in Ballina, County Mayo, a new library acquired by Mayo County Council clearly emphasizes the importance of considering resource collections outside the large metropolitan areas. This is an exceptionally rich collection.

Researchers ought not to look only to libraries in large metropolitan areas. Indeed, the wealth of research materials available beyond Dublin, Cork, Galway and Belfast will surprise and delight the visitor. This is true not only for visitors, but also for Irish scholars. The Jackie Clarke Library is certainly a case in point, as Clarke assembled a collection of Irish revolutionary materials worthy of any great research library.

The Clarke Collection is still being organized, but it has already yielded a treasure trove of Irish historical materials, especially on the 1798 and 1916 Rebellions.’

**Dr Robert K O’Neill**

*The Burns Library, Boston College and author of Irish Libraries, Archives, Museums & Genealogical Centres. (Belfast, 2007)*

## Appendix

A selection of treasures from the Jackie Clarke Library.

Two letters written during the war of 1689-1690, signed by the Earl of Tyrconnell, [Richard Talbot] Secretary of State to James II.

**The Oxford Gazette: 21–25 December 1665.** Printed in Oxford when the Royal court had moved there during the Plague as the king refused to physically touch other London papers in case they were affected by plague.

**Newspapers from 1600s:** Three newspapers referencing to the Williamite War: The London Gazette, 27 February 1689. Containing a royal proclamation on war in Ireland 1689. The London Gazette, 21 August 1690. Containing a report of the siege of Limerick, 1690. The London Gazette, 13 April 1691. Containing a Proclamation banishing all Papists from the City of London, 1691

**Maps from 1600s: Miniature Map of Connaught:**

Based on Speed's maps of Ireland, this map was one of a series of miniatures published in the 1620s

**United Irishmen's: 'Northern Star'.** 1793. March 6, 13, 23, 27. 30. April 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 24, 27. May 1, 8, 15, 18, 22

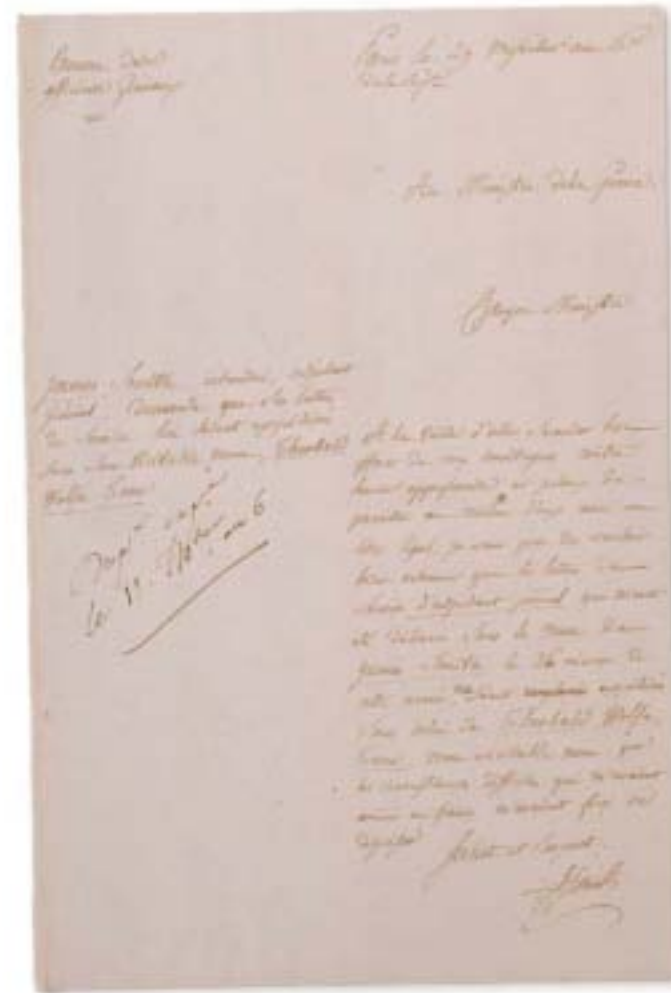
**General Return of the King's Royal Irish,** Ballinrobe, 18 June 1789.

**The United Irishmen's newspaper:** The Belfast News-letter, printed by Henry Joy & Co, Belfast. 1793

**1798:** French National Cockade belonging to Theobald Wolfe Tone, Adjutant General in the French Army

**1798:** Autograph letter signed from Sir John Moore from Moate, dated 10 October 1798, during the Rebellion.

**1798: United Irish Recruitment Handbill:** 'Men of Ireland!! Will you sleep for ever?'



**1798:** Letters written to the Minister of War by Theobald Wolfe Tone from Paris under the pseudonym of J Smith during the '6th Year of the Republic' (1795)

**1798:** Nineteen notices issued from Dublin Castle, during the 1798 Rebellion.



**1798:** Pikehead used by Irish Forces at the battle of Ballynahinch

**1801 Act of Union:** List of members who voted for the Union and those who voted against it.

**Young Irelanders:** Autographs Terence Bellows McManus and Thomas Francis Meagher written in Richmond Prison, January 10 1849.

**Young Irelanders:** Autograph letter from Charles Gavan Duffy to Dr Samuel Smiles, 4 August 1844, written in Richmond prison, Dublin.

**Fenians:** Letter from John Devoy, Herald Office, New York, 1 March 1876

**Fenians:** Autograph letter from Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa 15 August 1865, from the Irish People Office, 12 Parliament Street, Dublin.

**Fenians:** Report of the Proceedings at the First Sitting of the Special Commission for the County of the City of Dublin, held at Green-Street, Dublin for the trial of Thomas Clarke Luby and others for Treason-Felony 1866. Original owner: Henry Price, Governor Kilmainham Prison, dated, 12 July 1866.

**Fenians: Special Commissions Act 1888,** Notes for Cross Examination by solicitor of Eagan, Devoy, Brennan, O'Donovan Rossa and O'Kelly.

**Land League/Land War:** Twenty-seven items from the collection of Francis Tully, Hon. Secretary of the All Ireland Evicted Tenants Movement.



**Land League/Land War:** Autograph letter from Michael Davitt, 1888

**Land League:** Proclamation by Lord Lieutenant, 20 October 1881, presented in Houses of Parliament.

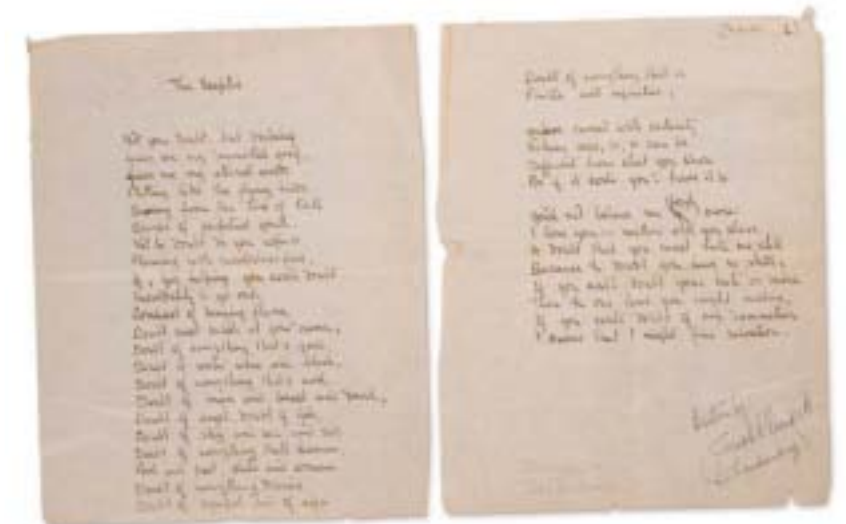
**Land War/Home Rule:** Court documents Piggott Trial with references to Davitt, Parnell, the Invincibles and Plan of Campaign.

**Home Rule:** 350 Political cartoons in mint condition.

**Cultural Revival –Letters and papers of Dr Douglas Hyde** including his 'New Testament of our Lord Jesus Christ translated from Greek to Irish', dated 1816. His certificate of confirmation, 7 July 1876 and his own copy of the Souvenir Program of the 'Coming of Age of the Irish Literary Society in London 1892-1913'



**Land War/Home Rule:** The No Rent Manifesto.



**1916:** The Sceptic, an autograph poem by Joseph Mary Plunkett.

**1916:** Three documents written by Eamonn Ceannt during the Rising. These documents were used in court martial against him.

**1916:** Letter from Major Lennon to Fr Aloysius 2 May 1916 requesting that he visit PH Pearse in Kilmainham Gaol and attend his execution.

**1916:** Bill from Scoil Eanna address to Eamonn Ceannt for the education of his son Ronan Ceannt, 22 May 1914.

**1916:** Two cheques written by PH Pearse dated 1913.

**1916:** a British military copy of Thomas MacDonagh's speech from the Dock.

**1916:** *Sonnets to Columba* by Joseph Mary Plunkett, Donnybrook, the Columba Press

1916: Autograph letter from PH Pearse (in Irish) dated 23 November 1905, on Conradh na nGaeilge notepaper.

1916: A notice 'A Farewell Dinner to James Connolly' Thursday 14 July 1910.

1916: A prayer-book Catholic Piety, given by Tom Clarke to his sister

1916: Notebook belonging to Thomas MacDonagh, Hotel Jacob, 44 Rue Jacob, Paris 1910.

1916: Letter written by Sir Roger Casement, when he was British Consul in Mauritius.

War of Independence: 2 Tickets. One for Dail Eireann, 21 January 1919, signed Harry Boland and Blank Ticket for Dail Eireann, 10 April 1919.



War of Independence: Ernie O'Malley's copy of 'Saorstát na hÉireann Judicia Rules, Forms, Parish and District Courts',

War of Independence/Civil War: Circular on Dáil Eireann notepaper, dated February 1921, issued by Austin Stack, Minister for Home Affairs, appealing for assistance and co-operation with the work of the Republican Courts.

War of Independence/Civil War: Letters written by Michael Collins as Finance Minister during the War of Independence.



War of Independence/Civil War: Autograph book with signatures of 130 people who took part in the Treaty Negotiations and Dail Eireann 1921.



War of Independence: Sir John Lavery's portraits of Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins signed by artist and sitter.

**War of Independence/Civil War:** Letter dated 24 November 1920 on Sinn Fein notepaper from Officer Commanding of 4th Battalion of the IRA to Commander R Penrose FitzGerald, 15 Westbourne Park Road, detailing ammunition, daggers, flint lock pistol, taken by order of the Republican forces on 17 October 1920.

**Civil War:** Record Sheet, from Tintown, James Behan, 28 August 1923.

**Civil War/Mayo:** Oglai na hEireann, 2nd Brigade Western Division, 13 July 1922

**Civil War: The documents that called for a ceasefire and a dumping of arms.** Typescript copy of Eamon de Valera's message to 'the Legion of the Rearguard, 29 May 1923. Typescript copy of Frank Aiken's message to dump arms, 24 May 1923.

**Civil War:** photographs of the funeral of Michael Collins





