The establishment of an archive was enshrined in the earliest Constitutions of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Irish Branch (Loreto) established in Ireland in 1821. Loreto Central and Irish Province Archives, consists of two separate but related archives: the records of the General Council of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the records of the Irish Province.

The Archive was managed by members of the order until 2009/2010, when for the first time a professionally qualified archivist was directly employed by the Institute. Amongst the myriad of outstanding tasks identified, increasing awareness of and use of the archives was identified as a priority, and a number of measures to achieve this were implemented.

In May 2011, a weekend of celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary of the death of M. Teresa Ball, foundress of the Institute in Ireland, provided an opportunity to bring the archives to the wider Loreto community. The celebrations were centralised in the Provincial House in Rathfarnham. Temporary display cases were hired, a themed exhibition on M. Teresa Ball organised, and leaflets prepared and distributed. The exhibition was attended by all participating in the celebrations; at times we had concerns about overcrowding! There were cries of wonder as the sisters discovered documents long heard of, but never viewed, and were astonished to discover that the Archives were not dull boxes filled with boring administrative records.

Realising the appetite that exists, we are now committed to organising at least one day of exhibitions a year. In April this year, the first ‘Archives Open Day’ was held. Due to the complicated history of the Institute and efforts in the 21st century to achieve recognition for its 17th century foundress Mary Ward, the contribution of M. Teresa Ball, foundress of the Irish branch of the Institute, had been increasingly overlooked. The ‘Archives Open Day’ fulfilled two needs, the need to further promote the Archives and to highlight the achievements of M. Teresa Ball. Four papers focusing on her life and the development of the Institute in Ireland were prepared and presented by both of the Irish Province archivists and two researchers. Each paper was based on research undertaken in the Archives. After some persuasion, a traditional sean nós singer, a Loreto sister, who had visited the Archives, researching missionary sisters in Darjeeling, India, agreed to perform her original composition. Her beautifully haunting rendition, honouring those who had devoted their lives to missionary work, was powerful and moving. Once again, we were pleasantly surprised with the almost capacity attendance. Some of the speakers, in response to demand, have also presented their papers to Loreto communities where older members who were unable to travel to the Open Day reside.

Publicity material for ‘Archives Open Day’ (2012)

The Archives are now viewed by many of the sisters with excitement and curiosity, the contents of a regular newsletter from the Archives are discussed in Loreto communities, and there has been a notable increase in contact with and
visitors to the Archives. We have begun to engage with history teachers in Loreto College, St Stephen’s Green, and hope to facilitate them in using primary resources in the classroom. A recent awareness campaign aimed at academic researchers with an interest in women’s history, education for women and women religious, has been enthusiastically received, and we look forward to welcoming many new researchers to the Archives. The development of a web presence on the Loreto global website and the (separate) Irish province website has also yielded tangible results, with an increased number of researchers contacting the Archives.

Loreto Central & Irish Province Archives are open to researchers, by prior appointment Mon – Fri, 9.30 – 4.30 at 55 St Stephen’s Green, Dublin 2. Contact details are +353 1 662 0158 loretoarc55@eircom.net

Further details and online exhibits can be found at: www.loreto.ie/archives and www.ibvm.org

Áine Mc Hugh & Kathleen Fitzgerald
Loreto Central and Irish Province Archives,

Mind the Gap: Building a Bridge Between the PRONI Archive Catalogue and Graduate Research Students

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) was established by an Act of Parliament: The Public Records Act (Northern Ireland) 1923 and officially opened as the official repository for public records in the then newly formed state of Northern Ireland, one of the four constituent parts of the UK. From the early 1920s, it has continued to receive records from government departments, courts of law, local authorities and other public bodies as you might expect and also perhaps more unexpectedly, it has received numerous records from private individuals and companies including the ‘big house’ network in Ulster; churches and other religious institutions; private individuals and all manner of private enterprises. As one former director pointed out (Gerry Slater, 2001), PRONI occupies a unique remit within the United Kingdom as it is not only a national archive repository for Northern Ireland, but also acts as the manuscript section of a national library (Northern Ireland being the only country in the UK without a ‘national’ library), and also as the sole county records office, representing each one of the six counties of Northern Ireland and in some instances, the historical nine counties of the province of Ulster. It therefore covers a wide remit and has much to offer the potential researcher.

Here at PRONI we have, for some years now, advertised on our website a small PDF document, amounting to just over 4,000 words, entitled ‘Research Strengths at PRONI’ - a introductory guide to illustrate the types of collections that might be suitable for further research. Indeed, this document is itself something of an understatement as the vast majority of our records are under-utilised and in spite of holding collections with national and international standing, spanning over 500 years of history for the north of Ireland, there is still something of a gap between how graduate research students approach PRONI and how we reach out to graduate research students.

Over recent years, I have been heavily involved in working with graduate students working on MA/Mphil/PhD research. When they visit the archive, they often have little sense of what they are looking for, even less understanding of how an archive works and how the catalogue is put together, and more often than not, they end up having a very frustrating experience. Coming to an archive for the first time is a daunting enough prospect for anybody, but when you are putting together your first postgraduate chapter, it is an un-nerving time and working at this level, researchers are expected to have a grasp on their subject area. In reality however, students turn up with a vague idea of what they should be looking at, but have no idea how their subject area manifests itself within the archive catalogue, or have any real idea about what types of collections are held.

After another frustrating meeting with a research student who was approaching a subject area so big that a three year scholarship wouldn't even make a dent in, I decided to unearth the ‘Research Strengths at PRONI’ document and see if this could be rewritten to provide an up to date, more informative guide for graduate students. One of the key issues was to align the contents so they ‘married up’ with the disciplinary areas found within a university. It would not only be through section titles that academic areas could easily be identified but through narrative as well. It would be crucial for any new Guide to include an Introduction that would act as a signpost to researchers, and make the archival
catalogue seem less daunting. I think it helped that I had gone through the MA/PhD system myself and knew first hand of how daunting an archive could be, let alone how to begin such an important research project as your doctoral thesis.

Certainly when I started this project, I had no idea that it would eventually end up with over 30 individually themed sections and in total, amounting to over 50,000 words. It is currently undergoing its final draft and will hopefully be published on PRONI’s website towards the end of this year. Themes include Architects, Architecture & the Built Environment; Business Records; Economics; Environmental Studies; Ireland and Empire; Literature & the Arts; Medieval & Early Modern Studies; Narratives; Sexuality & Gender Studies and Urban Studies.

Having spoken with many academics at our local universities as well as with the graduate researchers themselves, there has been sufficient interest in my ‘work in progress’ thus far, and it will be interesting to see how many hits the document receives on our website during this academic year. It has certainly appealed to academic course convenors who have already been in touch to arrange for introductory talks to take place on campuses in the period leading up to Christmas, with the hope that the Academic Research Guide will ‘plug a gap’ that currently exists between the Archive as an institution and the Archive as an accessible place to do graduate research.

Dr Bethany Sinclair
Research Archivist, PRONI

Wellcome Trust Grangegorman Project

A major project on the greatest collection of mental hospital records in Ireland has begun in the National Archives of Ireland thanks to two generous grants from the Wellcome Trust.

In April of this year, over 20 tons of records from St. Brendan’s Mental Hospital, Grangegorman, were delivered to the National Archives. St. Brendan’s is the oldest, largest and most pre-eminent of the Irish public asylums and the records which, in extent, are the equivalent of almost all the other mental hospital collections taken together, date back to the opening of the hospital in 1814. Very complete runs of minute books and registers of admission survive from the foundation of the hospital and clinical case books exist from the 1880s. There is a very large survival of committal forms from the early 19th century and a wide variety of other records. Currently three people are employed on the project which will take two years to complete.

Brian Donnelly
National Archives of Ireland

Architectural Drawings of Church Buildings: Online Catalogue launched by RCB Library

The Representative Church Body Library, which is the library and archives of the Church of Ireland, has launched the first phase of a project to provide an on-line catalogue of its architectural drawings of church buildings.

The Library holds several collections of architectural drawings, the largest of which is a miscellaneous collection of 19th century drawings of Church of Ireland churches and cathedrals. Last year the Library, with the support of the Esme Mitchell Trust, conducted a pilot project to catalogue and digitize these drawings, and the architectural historian, Dr Michael O’Neill, was engaged to carry out this work. Following the successful completion of the pilot project the Library was awarded a grant from the Built Heritage element of the Environmental Fund by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and this, together with support from the RCB, has enabled Dr O’Neill to complete the first phase of the catalogue.

The purpose of this project is to make an important heritage resource freely available and, by providing surrogates, to assist with the conservation of a unique collection which is, in part, very fragile. Some, 1,279 drawings of 229 churches in the dioceses of Achonry, Ardagh, Ardfert, Armagh, Cashel, Clogher, Clonfert and Cloyne are now freely available to researchers at www.archdrawing.ireland.anglican.org

It is anticipated that this resource will be of value to students, historians, architects, and the wider heritage community. Further information regarding the holdings of the RCB Library is available at www.library.ireland.anglican.org

Dr. Raymond Refaussé, Librarian and Archivist
RCB, Library
Oral History Network of Ireland 2012 Conference Review

The second annual conference of the Oral History Network of Ireland (OHNI) was held on the weekend of 28-29 September in Ennis, county Clare. Entitled ‘Voicing the Past: Oral History and Heritage in Ireland’, the conference brought together oral history practitioners from north and south of the country. Over one hundred people attended over the two days which began on Friday morning with three training workshops in oral history. These workshops, which continued in the afternoon, included ‘Oral History basics: Interviewing and Best Practice’, ‘Setting up your own Oral History group’ and the very popular ‘Using and interpreting oral sources’. In the latter session, Dr. Maura Cronin from Mary Immaculate College in Limerick led an animated and well informed discussion on issues such as ‘the dynamic’ in the interview process, transcribing, the encouragement of memory, how to index and interpret interview recordings. The popularity of this session, with over forty attendees, demonstrated the widespread proliferation of oral history community groups as well as individual scholars who are using interviews, and are concerned with their dissemination, archiving and subsequent interpretation.

On Friday evening, the first of five discussion panels kicked off with three papers on Folklore, Commemoration and Memory. These papers ranged from a discussion of memory of the Irish War of Independence in Clare, Dr. Ida Milne’s ‘Spanish flu and other tales: the commemorative decade through the eyes of survivors’ and ‘Women, priests, and otherworldly forces’ in the National Folklore Archives. Chaired by Catriona Crowe, Head of Special Projects at the National Archives of Ireland, this forum introduced oral sources and prefaced the introduction of the Conference Keynote Speaker, Professor Alessandro Portelli.

Professor Alessandro Portelli

Drawing on his twenty five year experience of oral history research in Harlan County, Kentucky, USA, Professor Portelli described the richness of the history, landscape and people of Harlan County in Appalachia, and their struggle with environmental and industrial exploitation over the last century. For Portelli, oral history is primarily concerned with their dissemination, archiving and subsequent interpretation. He described how he initially approached people by explaining simply that he was ‘trying to learn about this place.’ This led to people adopting an instructive role, talking to him openly about their own lives and the class struggle which they had both witnessed and participated in. In his hour long speech, he carried his listeners from this personal account to broader themes of US twentieth century history, and finally expanded from Harlan to global environmental concerns. Recently retired from his position as Professor of American Literature at the University of Rome ‘La Sapienza’, it was a privilege to witness one of the leading and most influential contemporary oral historians demonstrate his skill and knowledge in the field. The conversations he inspired continued over dinner and well into the night in Ennis.

On Saturday, four panels of speakers introduced the audience to a wide range of oral history projects, themes and current issues. Highlights included Mary Muldowney’s paper ‘A political hot potato: the abortion debate in Ireland from the perspective of pro-choice activists’ and Brenda Ni Shileabhain’s description of ‘Arranged marriages in the Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht, West Kerry’ in the first ‘Gender and private life’ panel, followed by Mairtin MacCon Iomaire’s fascinating account of ‘oral history, restaurants and culinary history’ in the ‘Work, workplaces and working life’ session. In the afternoon, Therese McIntyre from Galway enthralled the audience with her account of ‘Performing social memory: the Goilín Singers, the Liberties and the mapping of oral history’, complete with vocal rendition of Dublin songs. Sarah Goek discussed ‘Migration, music and memories: Interdisciplinarity in oral histories of Irish emigrant musicians, 1945-1970’ and Anthony McIntyre provided a first hand account of ‘The Belfast Project and the Boston College subpoena case’ in the afternoon, while Kate Turner from the Healing Through Remembering project in Northern Ireland discussed ‘Personal narrative – opening old wounds or healing hurts?’

Closing Remarks on Saturday evening were led by Dr. Anna Bryson, the co-Director of The Peace Process: Layers of Meaning project. Anna summarized the panels and discussions held over the previous two days, complimenting the speakers on the range and depth of their contributions. The aim of the Oral History Network of Ireland to bring together practitioners of oral history and to showcase the work taking place around the country as well as the encouragement of best practice in conduct and archiving of oral history was truly realized over the course of this very enjoyable event. A more detailed account of the conference together
with podcasts of the main speakers will be available in the coming months on the website of OHNI: www.oralhistorynetworkireland.ie.

Dr. Catherine O’Connor

Labour Party donates Archive to the National Library of Ireland

L-R: Fiona Ross Director NLI; Colm Keavney Chairperson - Labour Party; Ita McAuliffe General Secretary - Labour Party; Eamon Gilmore

The Tánaiste and Labour Leader Eamon Gilmore, formally presented the Labour Party’s archive to the National Library of Ireland on 10 October 2012.

The archive material spans the Party’s 100 years and includes policy, election and referenda material, as well as a variety of Party reports. Stand-out items include the Party’s 1919 submission to the Socialist International Conference which successfully sought Ireland’s first international recognition as a Republic, as well as original leaflets documenting Labour’s fight to decriminalise homosexuality and allow the sale of contraceptives.

The Tánaiste said: ‘The contents of this archive testify to the Trojan work undertaken by members across the country for over a century, which has made the Party what it is today. Offering a paper trail back to the roots of our Party, the many policy and referendum leaflets included in this archive, charts Labour’s 100 year long quest for social change and better governance’.

He also noted that ‘This archive serves as a reminder that we as a Party, and also as a nation, have proven incredibly resilient in the face of serious challenges. The stories contained within this record, be they political, social or personal, underline the characteristics that have helped our society succeed in the past: community, equality and perseverance.’

As part of the Labour Party’s Centenary Year commemorations, archivist Ross Higgins has been employed by the Labour Party to assist the National Library of Ireland to archive this vast collection. This work is expected to take one year.

Reframing Disability: Exhibition Hosted by Dublin City Archives

Dublin City Archives recently played host to ‘Re-Framing Disability’, a major exhibition which was received on loan from the Royal College of Physicians, London. It was presented by Dublin City Archives in association with the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and the Social Inclusion Units of Dublin City Council and Dublin City Public Libraries.

The exhibition consisted of a series 17th-19th century portraits of disabled individuals. Some of the images are self-portraits such as one of artist Matthew Buchinger (see image below). Others featured include the first Siamese twins ‘Chang and Eng Bunker’ (1811-74), an image of the ‘giant’ Chang Yu Sing (1847-93), a print of John Boby who had vitiligo (skin disorder) titled ‘the wonderful spotted Indian’, and several portraits of parasitic twins.

The exhibition also explored the lives and characters behind these images and gives some sense of how disability was consider 400 years ago. A large proportion of those featured exhibited themselves to earn a living, a career which was not necessarily considered demeaning. Many of the individuals were talented, well-educated, married, had large families, and their disability was only one aspect of their lives. Others had sadder existences and less control over their lives, Sara Baartman (1789-1815) for example was often poked with sticks and umbrellas when she was on public display. The manager of ‘Giant’ Chan Yu Sing did not allow him to go out in public.

Self-portrait by disabled artist Matthew Buchinger (b. 1647)

Image: Copyright Royal College of Physicians, London
Arguably the most interesting aspect of this multimedia exhibition is that the historic images are juxtaposed by contemporary portraits and discussions by 27 disabled participants. Issues such as representation of disability in the media in the twenty-first century, treatment by the medical profession, and negative stereotypes are examined. The contemporary portraits are accompanied by quotes from each participant, and unlike their historic counterparts, the disability of the individual is not identified. It is the voice rather than the ‘label’ of the participant that is the focus.

At the exhibition launch, Cllr Kieran Binchy, representing the Lord Mayor commented that ‘This important exhibition is especially timely as it coincides with the Paralympics, where our Irish athletes are distinguishing themselves with their success and sportsmanship. This exhibition provides a perspective over society’s engagement with disability during the past four hundred years. I would encourage as many people as possible to visit this exhibition and engage with the discussions which it gives rise to.’ The artist and distinguished portrait painter Cathy Henderson also spoke at the opening.

Creating and displaying such an exhibition is obviously a contentious issue. There is a genuine concern that it may create offence, or become a ‘freak show’ gallery. The approach by Royal College of Physicians, London, which has included disabled people in all aspects of the project, has resulted in a sensitive and challenging exploration of historic and contemporary attitudes towards disability.

The exhibition has now moved to the Thackray Museum in Leeds until January 2013. However Irish audiences can still access images and the exhibition film at the Royal College of Physicians website: http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/museum-and-garden/whats/re-framing-disability-portraits-royal-college-physicians

Ellen Murphy, Senior Archivist
Dublin City Library and Archive

Abbey/NUI Galway
Digital Archive Partnership

A Digital Journey through Irish Theatre History, the Abbey/NUI Galway digital archive partnership, was launched on Monday, 22 October 2012 by President Michael D. Higgins in the Abbey Theatre. It is the largest digital theatre project ever undertaken, and heralds a new era of scholarship for Irish theatre internationally.

The Abbey archive, which contains over 1.8 million items, is one of the world’s most significant archival collections. It has a wealth of extraordinary and unique material providing a fascinating insight into Irish theatre, history, culture and society. The archival material ranges from show posters, programmes, photographs, minute books to lighting plans, set and costume designs, sound cues, prompt scripts and audio files.

Celebrating the launch, Fiach MacConghail, Director of the Abbey Theatre said: ‘It’s been a long cherished ambition of the Abbey Theatre to preserve our archive. The digitised archive will help scholars and historians to write the history of the Abbey in greater detail. The Abbey archive is a major resource for Irish theatre and will help us celebrate the unheralded artists, actors, writers who have worked at the Abbey over the years. It will also inspire the next generation of theatre makers. We are excited to partner with NUI Galway and to have arts and science disciplines come together in this way.’

Dr Jim Browne, President of NUI Galway said: ‘As East meets West, and the creative arts and scholarship combine, this project will see the most advanced digital technology brought to bear on one of the country’s most historic theatre archives. This digitisation project is based on an awareness of the importance of the Abbey Theatre for the social, cultural and economic history of this country – not to mention its ongoing significance for Ireland and the international community as one of the key national theatres in the world. The benefits to our students and researchers of having direct access to this rich national collection will be immense. There is also great interest in the digital archive abroad and it will draw researchers of international repute to Ireland.’

The earliest item in the Abbey archive actually precedes the founding of the Abbey Theatre. It is
an 1894 poster of the first production of *The Land of Heart’s Desire* by W.B. Yeats, which was performed at the Avenue Theatre in London and is reflective of Yeats’ ambition to present Irish theatre outside Ireland. Other archival gems reveal that Éamon De Valera trod the Abbey stage as Dr. Kelly in an amateur production of *A Christmas Hamper* in 1905. Even our own Irish James Bond had a presence on the Abbey stage when in 1964 Donal McCann played Seamus Bond with Angela Newman as Puisín in the Christmas pantomime *Aisling as Tír na nÓg*. Part of the Abbey Archive was damaged as a result of the devastating effects of the fire of 1951 and some archival artifacts are in a fragile condition due to age.

The digitised archive will change our understanding of Irish drama. The history of Irish drama is largely understood to be the history of Irish plays – of the written script. As a full multimedia archive, the digital archive will provide researchers with access to the complete range of materials associated with theatre performance: not just the scripts but also the visual materials (costume, set, and lighting designs), sound materials (music scores, sound effects), and the supporting materials (adverts, press releases, reviews).

This digitisation project which began in September, will take place over a three to four-year period. The digitisation process, which is currently taking place on the NUI Galway campus, will bring together multidisciplinary teams of the University’s researchers, students and archivists to realise this exciting project.

The digitisation project is unique in that it highlights two of the most important features of contemporary Ireland: the richness of its cultural traditions and its capacity for technological innovation. NUI Galway is ideally positioned to capitalise on those strengths, as it brings both international expertise in Irish theatre and digital humanities to the project. The Moore Institute for the Humanities and Social Studies at NUI Galway is home to several major digital humanities projects, including the EU-funded TEXTE initiative; while its Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI) is the world’s largest research institute dedicated to internet technology-based research. Researchers at both of these institutes, together with archivists and librarians from the James Hardiman Library, will work together to ensure the very latest technology is used to illuminate the past.

The digital Abbey archive will be a major addition to the existing collection of literary and cultural archives at NUI Galway. The Archive Collection at the University’s James Hardiman Library comprises over 350 collections, dating from 1485 to the present. Theatre collections include the papers of Thomas Kilroy and the Shields Family Collection, featuring the Abbey actor Arthur Shields and there is a particular focus on the archives of companies such as the Druid Theatre, Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe and the Lyric Players Theatre in Belfast. A new Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Research facility will open at the heart of the campus in 2013, providing the perfect home for this significant collection.

Students of the new undergraduate degree in Drama, Theatre and Performance at NUI Galway, as well as a new PhD programme in Irish Drama will encourage a new wave of young researchers from Ireland and abroad to come to Galway to learn about Yeats, Synge, Lady Gregory and the many other great writers associated with the Abbey. The University has also introduced two new fully-funded PhD fellowships dedicated to research in Irish Theatre to give an immediate boost to the research team working on the Archive project.

To view the Abbey Theatre/NUI Galway digital archive partnership website click www.nuigalway.ie/abbey-digital-archivepartnership/

---

**Forthcoming Edition of Irish Archives on Justice and Defence Archives**

*RUC recruiting literature circa 1974 © Courtesy of the Police Museum, Belfast*

The forthcoming volume of *Irish Archives* has as this year’s theme justice and security archives across the island of Ireland. Volume 19 will mark
the 90th anniversaries of both the PSNI (formerly the RUC) and An Garda Síochána (formerly the Civic Guard) by focusing on such diverse topics as the records of policing before there was a police force – when responsibility for keeping the peace and watching over security fell to the local parish; the evolutionary stories of both the RUC and An Garda Síochána based on their surviving documentary evidence and specific case studies of the Special Constabulary in Northern Ireland; the music of 19th-century military bands - with analysis of the part books of the Galway regiment of militia, and finally the maps, plans and drawings collection of the Military Archives.

Irish Archives will be distributed through bookshops, libraries and archives following a launch in Dublin in the autumn and members will receive their invitations in the coming months.

**Dr Susan Hood and Elizabeth McEvoy Co-editors, Irish Archives**

**ISA Matters**

**ISA Hospital Records Sub-Committee**
The Irish Society for Archives hospital records sub-committee held its first meeting on the 24th of May 2012. The objective of the committee is to update the ISA on the current state of hospital records with particular regard to collections in danger where intervention by the ISA might be appropriate. The membership of the sub-committee includes Brian Donnelly (Chairperson), Gregory O’Connor and Andrew Whiteside (Secretary).

Of particular concern at present are the records of mental hospitals, where wide ranging closures have placed material in danger. Like the records of other hospitals within the HSE, these collections are not, at present, protected by legislation. Our enthusiastic and energetic secretary has been busy contacting archival repositories throughout Ireland seeking up to date information on collections held and terms of access. The subcommittee hopes to organise a seminar in Dublin in May 2013 to discuss the drawing up of standards in relation to access to mental health records.

Brian Donnelly,
National Archives of Ireland

**ISA Newsletter**
Items for inclusion in the Spring Newsletter are welcome and must be received by 14 February 2013. Please send items to Ellen Murphy, ellen.murphy@dublincity.ie or Dublin City Library and Archive, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2.

**ISA Membership**

To become a member or renew membership of the Irish Society for Archives, please contact: Ms Antoinette Doran, Hon. Membership Secretary, Irish Society for Archives, c/o Redemptorist Library, Marianella, 75 Orwell Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6 or download an application form at: www.ucd.ie/archives/isa/isa-membershipform.html and email to isasubscription@gmail.com

**ISA Lecture Series 2012/2013**
Lectures are held at Dublin City Library and Archive, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. Lectures will begin promptly at 18.30. Please join us for a glass of wine before each lecture from 18.00. All are welcome.

**Tuesday 2 October 2012**
The first lecture in the 2012/2013 series was held on Tuesday 2nd October. Harriet Wheelock, archivist at the Royal College of Physicians, Ireland, gave a fascinating paper on ‘Caring for the history of the profession: RCPI’s archive collections’. The RCPI archive holds records of the College itself, relating to its activities and functions, dating from the original Royal Charter of 1667 to the present. It also holds the papers of individual physicians, hospitals, medical and professional organisations, the papers of Irish medical historians, papers relating to the social history of medicine and papers relating to medical businesses. Further details available at www.rcpi.ie/HeritageCentre/Pages/Archive.aspx

**Tuesday 4 December 2012**
‘Music at the Abbey Theatre, 1904-1965’ Lecture by Dr. Maria Mc Hale, Conservatory of Music and Drama, Dublin Institute of Technology

**Tuesday 5 February 2013**
‘Sources for Irish Labour History’ Lecture by Frances Devine, labour historian and author

The February lecture will be preceded by the Irish Society for Archives AGM at 18.00.

**ISA Committee Officers:**
Dr Raymond Refausse, Chairperson; email raymond.refausse@rcbdub.org
Andrew Whiteside, Hon. Secretary; email andwhiteside@gmail.com
Dr. Kerry Houston; Hon. Treasurer, kerry.houston@dit.ie
Ms. Antoinette Doran, Hon Membership secretary, isasubscription@gmail.com
Ms. Elizabeth McEvoy, Co-editor Irish Archives, emcevoy@nationalarchives.ie
Dr. Susan Hood, Co-editor Irish Archives, susan.hood@rcbdub.org
MS. Ellen Murphy, Newsletter and Website editor, ellenmurphy@dublincity.ie