

The Poets' Rebellion: Poetry, Memory, and the Easter Rising

Curated by Sarah Harsh and Kevin Young

On view at Poets House from May 4 to June 21, 2016

This guide provides a key to the items in this exhibition, moving counterclockwise around the gallery from the first case to the right of the entrance. Many items are part of the Raymond Danowski Poetry Library and all items are housed at the Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library at Emory University in Atlanta. This guide is for reference purposes; for full library cataloguing please consult Emory's online catalogue at discover.emory.edu.

Case #1:

Padraic Colum. *Roger Casement*. Dublin: 1916. Poem commemorating Roger Casement, diplomat and champion of human rights, who attempted to secure arms from Germany to aid the rebels in the Easter Rising. He was hanged for treason by the British Army.

Roger Casement. *Some poems of Roger Casement*. Dublin: Talbot Press, 1918.

Thomas McDonagh. *Through the Ivory Gate*. Dublin: Sealy, Bryers, and Walker, 1903.

McDonagh was a poet, teacher, and signatory of the Easter Proclamation. He was executed for his part in the Easter Rising.

"In Memoriam: Roger Casement." Dublin: Benmore, circa 1918. Memorial insert from *Some poems of Roger Casement*, published posthumously.

Joseph Plunkett. *The Poems of Joseph Mary Plunkett*. Dublin: Talbot Press, 1916. Journalist and intellectual Joseph Plunkett coordinated the rebels' military operations. He was married in Kilmainham Gaol hours before he was executed for his part in the Rising

Case #2:

William Butler Yeats. "Easter, 1916." London: Clement Shorter, 1917. Printed privately for distribution among Yeats's friends and signed by Shorter, this is one of only twenty-five copies.

Case #3:

William Butler Yeats. "[Easter 1916]." Manuscript in Lady Gregory's hand with additions and deletions. Circa 1916. Lady Augusta Gregory, dramatist and cultural nationalist, was Yeats's collaborator, friend, and patron.

Lady Augusta Gregory. *The Dragon: A wonder play in three acts*. Dublin: Talbot Press, 1920. Composed in 1916 in the wake of the Easter Rising, this fairy tale drama explores ideas of change and transformation.

Elizabeth Yeats. Christmas card for her niece Grace. Churctown: Cuala Press, circa 1925-1940. This card features a hand-colored woodblock print by Beatrice Campbell.

Maud Gonne. Letter to William Butler Yeats. August 11, 1916. Facsimile. In response to a draft of Yeats's "Easter, 1916," Maud Gonne writes: "My Dear Willie, No, I do not like your poem."

Case #4:

Eva Gore-Booth. *Selected Poems of Eva Gore-Booth*. New York: Longmans, Green and Co., 1933. Eva Gore-Booth and her sister Countess Constance Markievicz were committed suffragists and revolutionaries.

Kathleen Behan, Maud Gonne, and Helena Molony. *Rebel Irishwomen*. Audiorecording with transcript. Dublin: Claddagh Records, 1966. A collection of oral histories from women participating in and connected to the Easter Rising.

Case #5:

Martin Daly. *Memories of the Dead*. Dublin: Powell Press, circa 1917. Poems elegizing the dead leaders of the Rising.

Patrick Browne. *The Aftermath of Easter week*. Dublin: Published for the benefit of the Irish National Aid and Volunteers' Dependents Fund, 1917. Poems including "To Ireland, 1916" and "The Dead Who Live for Ireland" illustrate the immediacy of commemorative poetry on the Rising.

James Stephens. *The insurrection in Dublin*. Dublin: Maunsel & Co., 1916. Stephens, a close friend of many of the executed leaders of the Rising, offers a daily account of the weeklong insurrection.

Sean Milroy. *Memories of Mountjoy*. London: Maunsel & Co., 1917. Milroy participated in the Easter Rising but faced a prison sentence rather than execution.

Case #6:

Paul Muldoon. "7, Middagh Street: Wylan." Typescript draft with holograph notes. Circa 1980s. Muldoon takes up Yeats's question about his propagandistic play *Cathleen Ni Houlihan*: "Did that play of mine send out / Certain men the English shot?" Muldoon's answer: "Certainly not."

Medbh McGuckian. Notebook with notes and poetry from *Shelmalier* and *Captain Lavender*. Circa 1990s. In her 1998 volume *Shelmalier*, McGuckian explores the republican tradition in the context of the 1798 Rebellion.

Case #7:

Seamus Heaney. Drafts including “Triptych for the Easter Battlers” and “Requiem for the Irish Rebels.” Belfast group worksheets with holograph notes by Michael Longely. Circa 1963-1966. Belfast group worksheets were circulated and edited by students and professors at Queen’s University, Belfast. Heaney’s “Requiem for the Irish Rebels” would eventually be published as “Requiem for the Croppies” in 1966 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Easter Rising.

Case #8:

***Wolfe Tone Annual*. Dublin: Brian O’Higgins, 1955.** A republican periodical with articles in English and Irish.

Plaque, "In proud memory of two brave Republican soldiers, Sean Sabhat and Fergal O’Hanluin who were killed by British Forces at Brookeborough, Co. Fermanagh, on New Year's Day 1957." Signed on back. 1975. IRA members Sabhat and O’Hanluin were killed in a raid on Royal Ulster Constabulary barracks.

***Wolfe Tone Annual*. Dublin: Brian O’Higgins, 1950.**

Case #9:

***Wolfe Tone Annual*. Dublin: Brian O’Higgins, 1960.**

Dermon Bolger, editor. *16 on 16: Irish writers on the Easter Rising*. Dublin: Raven Arts Press, 1988. Essays by Irish writers exploring the legacy of the Rising, including a piece by Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill comparing her grandfather to the rebel leaders.

Edna C. Fitzhenry, editor. *Nineteen-sixteen anthology*. Dublin: Browne and Nolan Ltd, 1936. A schoolbook of poetry pertaining to the Rising, published on the twentieth anniversary of the Rising.

Case #10:

Thomas S. Cleary. *Shin Fain, or, Ourselves Alone: a drama of the exhibition*. Dublin: James Duffy and Sons, 1882. A rare early mention of Sinn Fein.

The National Council. *Sinn Fein Constitution. Undated.* The rules and constitution of Sinn Fein in English and Irish, including space for member's signature.

Padraic Pearse. *The Easter Proclamation. Dublin: Dolmen Press, 1975.* A reprint of the Easter Proclamation designed by Liam Miller.

Padraic Pearse. *The Easter Proclamation. Dublin: Dolmen Press, 1989.*

On the pillar in the middle of the room:

Government of Northern Ireland. IRA Posters. 1972.

"Wanted: Irish Freedom." Grand Jury Protest, San Francisco, California, November 14, 1972.

Sinn Féin, "Self-determination for the Irish People," circa 1972.