



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK

OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

The McGowan Papers

P47

**University of Limerick
Library and Information Services**

University of Limerick Special Collections

The McGowan Papers

Reference Code: IE 2135 P47
Title: The McGowan Papers
Dates of Creation: 1922-1923
Level of Description: Fonds
Extent and Medium: 37 items (12 files)

CONTEXT

Name of Creator(s): McGowan, Annie, and her daughter McGowan, Sarah ('Sally') (b. 1901).

Administrative/ Biographical History: Annie McGowan was the daughter of Patrick and Susan Browne of Limerick and wife of Michael McGowan. The couple lived on John Street, Limerick, and had eight children. Michael fought in the First World War on the Western Front, where he was poisoned by gas and evacuated to a hospital in Birmingham. In order to support her mother, the couple's daughter Sarah ('Sally') McGowan got a job as a printer's assistant in McKern's Printing Works in Limerick city and, on her mother's insistence, joined the transport union. When Sarah and 11 other girls were offered a pay increase of two shillings and six pence on condition that they leave the Union, Sarah was the only girl to refuse the offer as a result of which she was sacked. She later worked as a waitress in a Catherine Street restaurant. During and after the Civil War, Annie and Sarah McGowan delivered food and parcels of books, magazines and cigarettes to Republican Prisoners in Limerick Jail and continued to send these to prisoners transferred to the Curragh internment camp in County Kildare. After the Civil War, Sarah McGowan emigrated to America.

Archival History: Unknown.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Donated to the University of Limerick by Seamus Harrold on 22 October 2013.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Scope and Content: The archive contains a selection of letters and notes written by Republican Prisoners imprisoned in Limerick Jail and the Curragh Internment camp between 1922 and 1923 during and following the Civil War. They comprise in the main thank you-notes for parcels delivered to or sent to them by Annie McGowan and her daughter Sarah.

Appraisal, Destruction and Scheduling Information: All records have been retained.

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

System of Arrangement: The documents have been arranged alphabetically by sender's surname and thereunder chronologically by date.

CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE

Conditions Governing Access: Unrestricted access to all items.

Conditions Governing Reproduction: Standard copyright regulations apply to all items. For photocopying or reproducing material, please consult with the staff.

Language/ Scripts of Material: English.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Paper documents in good condition.

Finding Aids: A hard copy of the descriptive catalogue is available at the Special Collections Department, Glucksman Library, University of Limerick.

ALLIED MATERIALS

Related Units of Description: None known.

DESCRIPTION CONTROL

Archivist's Note: Papers arranged and described by John Harrington under the supervision of Anna-Maria Hajba.

Rules or Conventions: This description follows guidelines based on *ISAD(G)* 2nd edition, 2000. And *Irish Guidelines for Archival Description*, 2009.

Date of Description: July 2015.

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The McGowan Papers

A. CORRESPONDENCE (1922-1923)

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|---|----------------|--|---------|
| 1 | [c. 1922-23] | From Matt Blake, Limerick Prison, to Annie McGowan, thanking her for a parcel received. | 1p |
| 2 | 4 April 1923 | From J. Fitzgibbon, West Limerick Section, Limerick Prison, to Annie McGowan, thanking her for a cake and asking her to forward a note to his friend. | 1p |
| 3 | [c. 1922-1923] | From Jim Fitzgibbon, West Limerick Section, Limerick Prison, to Annie McGowan, thanking her for his dinner and a parcel, and promising to out a bag as a present. | 2 items |
| 4 | [c. 1922-1923] | From P. Fitzgibbon, B Landing, [Limerick Prison], to Annie McGowan, thanking her for food and books. He expects to be moved any day soon. | 2pp |
| 5 | [c. 1922-1923] | From Paddie Fitzgibbon, West Limerick Section, Limerick Prison, to Annie McGowan, thanking her for food and parcels and confessing to eating one of the dinners intended for his brother Jim Fitzgibbon (for which see 3) who has been transferred to the Curragh. | 6 items |
| 6 | [c. 1922-1923] | From Thomas Keane, West Clare Section, Limerick Prison, to Annie McGowan, thanking her for food, books, cigarettes and parcels. | 6 items |

- 7 [c. 1922-1923] From Thomas Keane, West Clare Section, Limerick Prison, to Tadgh (Tim) [McGowan?], thanking him and his mother for food, books, cigarettes and parcels and expressing his view that he will soon be moved from Limerick Prison. The reverse of one of the letters contains a message from Tadgh to which Keane's note is a reply.
5 items
- 8 [c. 1922-1923] From Thomas Keane, [Limerick Prison], to Sally [McGowan], thanking her for books and cigarettes and enclosing a small present as a token of his appreciation. He expects to be moved from Limerick Prison shortly.
1p
- 9 Dec 1922-Feb 1923 From Pat McInerney, Clare Section, Limerick Prison, to Annie McGowan, thanking her for food, books, cigarettes and parcels. One of the letters contains a guarded reference to the execution by firing squad of two Republican prisoners, Cornelius McMahon and Patrick Hennessy which took place in Limerick Prison on 20 January 1923.
8 items
- 10 [c. Mar-Sep 1923] From Pat McInerney, Hut No. 3, No. 2 Tin Town Interment Camp, The Curragh, Kildare, to Annie McGowan, giving an account of his transfer from Limerick Prison and the conditions in the Curragh internment camp, and asking for some cigarettes.
4 items
- 11 18 October 1923 From Pat McInerney, Dunmore, Doonbeg, to Annie McGowan, informing her of his release from the Curragh. He discusses the harsh conditions in Mountjoy Gaol and the ongoing hunger strike of the prisoners.
1p
- 12 11 June 1922 From Gretta Talty, O'Connell Street, Kilkee, to [Sarah] McGowan, asking her to deliver a parcel to Pat McInerney, a brother of a friend of hers, at Limerick Prison. She concludes, 'Oh are not the times dreadful'.
1p