An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives



2021 Commemoration Programme
as part of the Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023



Foreword

The National Archives' 2021 Commemoration Programme marks significant events of 1921, culminating in the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty on 6 December. Part of Ireland's Decade of Centenaries, the programme not only commemorates momentous historical events and political figures but also recalls the everyday experience of ordinary people living in extraordinary times. Historical accuracy, academic integrity, and archival discovery are key tenets of the Decades of Centenaries Programme, which seeks to engage and foster a deeper understanding of the complexities of our past and the multiple identities, traditions and perspectives that are part of the overall Irish historical experience.

The National Archives preserves the memory of the State in the form of its written records. It acquires and protects Ireland's public records, thereby ensuring their availability as a resource for all. These records relate to the social, cultural, economic and political history of the island of Ireland from the Middle Ages through to the establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922 and into the modern era.
Amongst its collections is perhaps the most famous document in Irish history: the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921. It is appropriate that the National Archives should mark the centenary of the signing of the Treaty by presenting a major exhibition of records in its possession relating to the negotiation and signing of the Treaty. Using the Treaty as the centrepiece, this exhibition places significant documents from the collections of the National Archives on public display for the first time.

Left: Michael Collins.
National Library of Ireland: Keogh Brothers Ltd., photographers. Reference: NPA POLF45



Photograph of delegates and secretarial staff attached to the Irish Republican Delegation, at 22 Hans Place during the Anglo-Irish Treaty negotiations of late-1921.

Back Row: Michael Knightly, John Charters, George Gavan Duffy, Robert C. Barton, Éamonn J. Duggan, Arthur Griffith, Erskine Childers.
Second Row: (seated) Joseph McGrath, David Robinson.
Front Row: Lily O'Brennan, Ellie Lyons, May Kavanagh (Mrs Éamonn J. Duggan), Bridget Slattery (Mrs Fionán Lynch), Kathleen McKenna and Alice Lyons, Fionán Lynch (crouching)
National Library of Ireland. Reference: MS 49,835/15/8

Foreword

The Treaty exhibition is accompanied by a series of commemoration programme initiatives aimed at encouraging historical enquiry and promoting the widest possible interest and use of primary archival sources. The National Archives has commissioned an Artist-in-Residence, John Beattie to engage with its collections, to reflect in imaginative ways on the contemporary resonance of particular episodes from the 1921-23 period. As part of its digitisation programme, the Cabinet Minute Books April 1919-April 1922 and the records of the Constitution Committee 1922 will be made publicly accessible.
A programme of workshops, curated talks and public discussion has been designed to bring our collections to life and make them relevant by exploring the impact and legacy of the events that occurred during the revolutionary period, including the international dimension and the experience of women. By supporting scholarly, collaborative and creative responses, the National Archives will activate its holdings to enable an open, diverse and inclusive commemoration of the final, challenging years of Ireland's Decade of Centenaries.

Orlaith McBride
Director



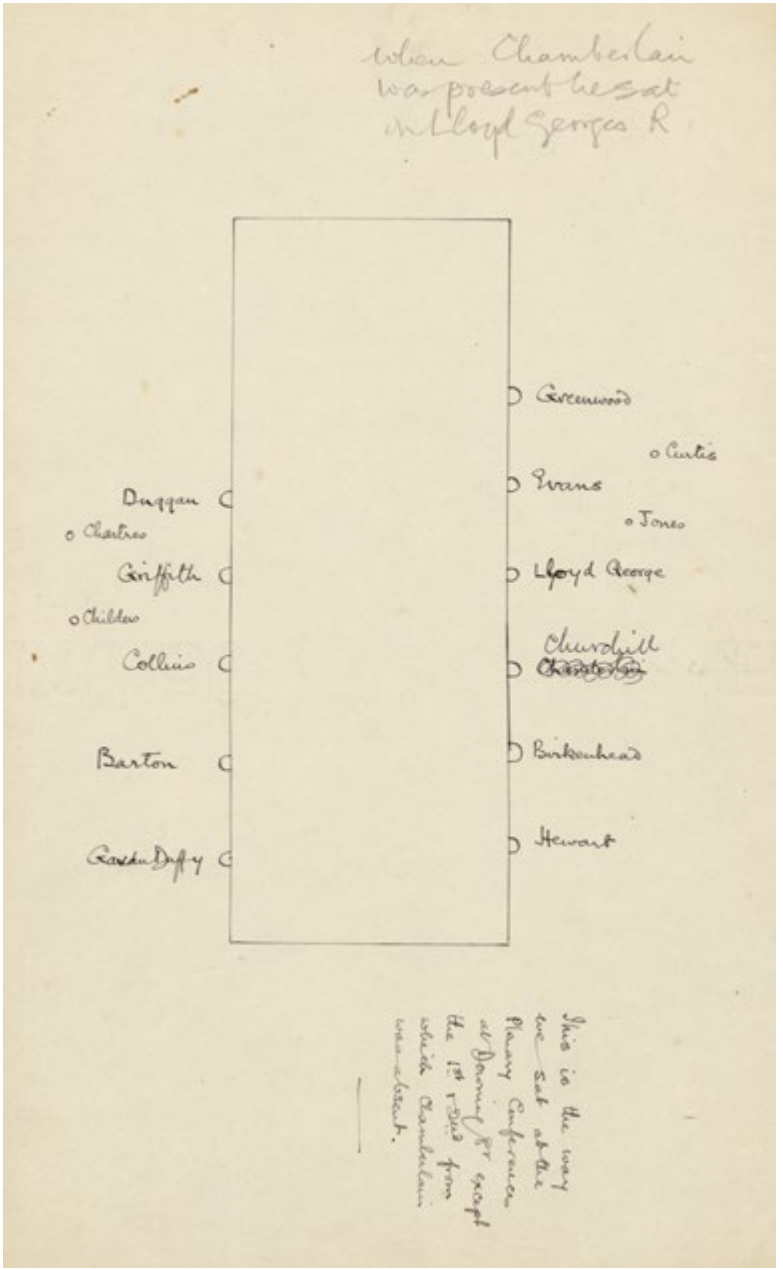
The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives

Presented by the National Archives in partnership with the Royal Irish Academy and the National Library of Ireland, with records from the collections of the Military Archives and University College Dublin.

The Anglo-Irish Treaty is one of the most significant historical documents held by the National Archives. Using it as a centrepiece, the National Archives will present an exhibition that marks its role as the official repository of the records of the State, one hundred years since its formation. *The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives* opens up significant historical records, official documents and private papers for the first time in the history of the State, including the first public presentation of the Treaty document.

Using contemporary reportage, images and footage, *The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives* locates the Treaty negotiations in the political context of the Irish revolution and a world turned upside down by the First World War. Beginning with the exploratory talks between Éamon de Valera, President of Dáil Éireann, and British Prime Minister David Lloyd George during the summer of 1921, it details the work of the Irish plenipotentiaries and their secretariat, by presenting the documentary record that they left behind.

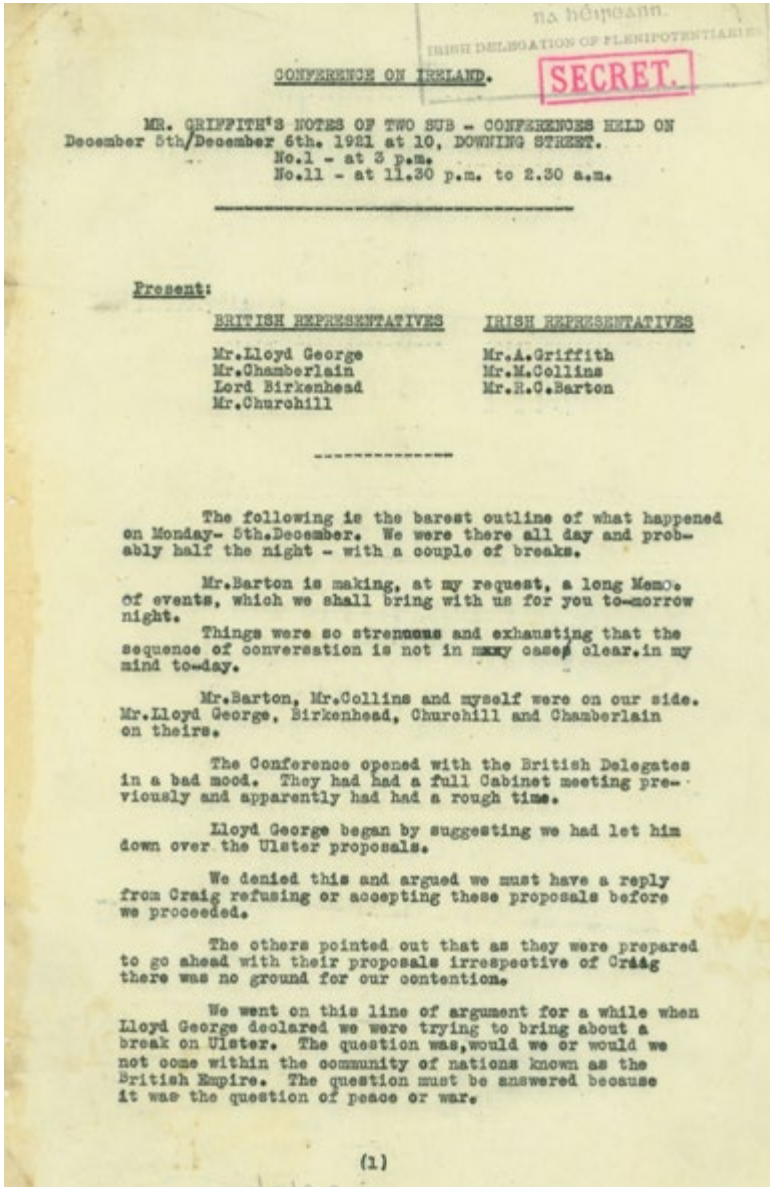
The exhibition also chronicles day-to-day life in London for the men and women who made up the Irish delegation, from parties attended, dinners hosted and appearances at theatre and gala performances, to the tense final days and hours leading to the signing of the Treaty just after 2am on 6 December 1921. Finally, it documents the delegation's return to Dublin, and the Dáil Éireann cabinet meeting that pointed to the split in the independence movement that emerged over the terms of the Treaty, and the divisions that would lead to civil war. The exhibition is accompanied by a programme of workshops, curated talks, a digital programme as well as guided tours, all designed to encourage historical enquiry and promote the widest possible interest in exploring and understanding the impact and legacy of the events that occurred during the revolutionary period, including global reactions and the experience of women.



Handrawn table plan by Robert Barton of the conference table in 10 Downing Street. National Archives. Reference: PRIV1093/4/32/1



Illustration of the Treaty talks in the cabinet room of 10 Downing Street featured in the London Illustrated News, 5 November 1921. National Archives. Reference: PRIV1903/16/1



CONFERENCE ON IRELAND. SECRET.

MR. GRIFFITH'S NOTES OF TWO SUB - CONFERENCES HELD ON December 5th/December 6th. 1921 at 10, DOWNING STREET.
No.1 - at 3 p.m.
No.11 - at 11.30 p.m. to 2.30 a.m.

Present:

BRITISH REPRESENTATIVES	IRISH REPRESENTATIVES
Mr.Lloyd George	Mr.A.Griffith
Mr.Chamberlain	Mr.M.Collins
Lord Birkenhead	Mr.H.C.Barton
Mr.Churchill	

The following is the barest outline of what happened on Monday- 5th.December. We were there all day and probably half the night - with a couple of breaks.

Mr.Barton is making, at my request, a long Memo. of events, which we shall bring with us for you to-morrow night.

Things were so strenuous and exhausting that the sequence of conversation is not in many cases clear.in my mind to-day.

Mr.Barton, Mr.Collins and myself were on our side. Mr.Lloyd George, Birkenhead, Churchill and Chamberlain on theirs.

The Conference opened with the British Delegates in a bad mood. They had had a full Cabinet meeting previously and apparently had had a rough time.

Lloyd George began by suggesting we had let him down over the Ulster proposals.

We denied this and argued we must have a reply from Craig refusing or accepting these proposals before we proceeded.

The others pointed out that as they were prepared to go ahead with their proposals irrespective of Craig there was no ground for our contention.

We went on this line of argument for a while when Lloyd George declared we were trying to bring about a break on Ulster. The question was,would we or would we not come within the community of nations known as the British Empire. The question must be answered because it was the question of peace or war.

(1)

Arthur Griffith's notes of the two sub-conferences held between the British and Irish delegations on 5 to 6 December 1921 at 10 Downing Street, culminating in the signing of the Treaty at 2.15 am on 6 December.
National Archives. Reference: PRIV1093/1/19

Preview Exhibition in London
The Treaty negotiations began in London on 11 October 1921 and concluded in the early morning of 6 December 1921 with the signature, by British and Irish negotiators, of 'Articles of Agreement' – better known as the Anglo-Irish Treaty (or the Treaty). This led directly to the establishment of the Irish Free State on 6 December 1922, governing twenty-six of Ireland's thirty-two counties. It was a milestone in the histories of Ireland, the United Kingdom (UK), and the British Empire and Commonwealth.

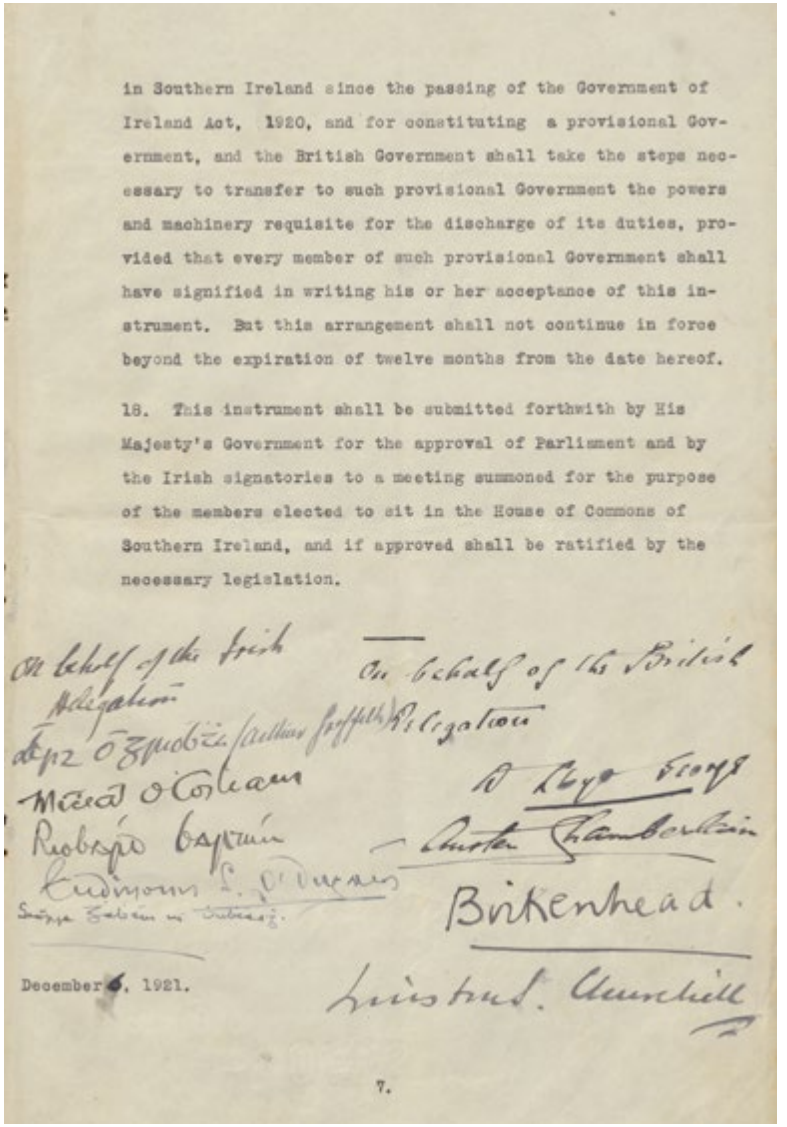
A preview exhibition of *The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives* will open in London on 11 October to mark the centenary of the beginning and the course of the Treaty negotiations. The exhibition is presented by the National Archives in partnership with the Embassy of Ireland in London, the Royal Irish Academy and the British Academy, with records from the collections of the National Library of Ireland, the Military Archives and University College Dublin.

Exhibition details

	LONDON	DUBLIN
	11 — 23 October 2021	**6 December 2021 — 27 March 2022**
	Monday-Friday 10am – 5pm Saturday 10am – 1pm Sunday 10am – 5pm	10am – 5pm, daily
	The British Academy 10-11 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AH	Coach House Gallery, Dublin Castle Gardens, Dame Street, Dublin 2, D02 X822
	thebritishacademy.ac.uk	dublincastle.ie



Visualisation of exhibition.



in Southern Ireland since the passing of the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, and for constituting a provisional Government, and the British Government shall take the steps necessary to transfer to such provisional Government the powers and machinery requisite for the discharge of its duties, provided that every member of such provisional Government shall have signified in writing his or her acceptance of this instrument. But this arrangement shall not continue in force beyond the expiration of twelve months from the date hereof.

18. This instrument shall be submitted forthwith by His Majesty's Government for the approval of Parliament and by the Irish signatories to a meeting summoned for the purpose of the members elected to sit in the House of Commons of Southern Ireland, and if approved shall be ratified by the necessary legislation.

On behalf of the Irish Delegation

On behalf of the British Delegation

Birkenhead.

Winston S. Churchill

December 6, 1921.

7.

The Anglo-Irish Treaty, formally known as the 'Articles of Agreement', signed by the Irish and British delegates on 6 December 1921.
National Archives. Reference: Department of the Taoiseach, 2002/5/1

Artist-in-Residence: John Beattie

Following an open call for proposals, the National Archives appointed John Beattie as its Artist-in-Residence as part of the Decade of Centenaries Programme.

The National Archives' Artist-in-Residence programme is designed to support the exploration of new perspectives on archival material relating to the 1921-1923 period through the creation of new and original artwork. Public engagement will be a significant feature of the 24-month programme, providing unique insights into the artist's creative process, as well as the collections of the National Archives and its role preserving and protecting the records of the State for current and future generations. Through the collaboration, the National Archives will explore new approaches to presenting its collections that enhance visitor enjoyment and encourage different ways of seeing and experiencing them.

John Beattie's proposal, *Reperforming State Memory* seeks to engage with the National Archives' collections and, through a process of historical and cultural reconstruction, to create a new body of work which re-stages and brings to life historical and cultural narratives and events from the period 1921- 1923. Throughout the residency, Beattie will present a series of public talks describing his experience of working as Artist-in-Residence in the National Archives; his research process and approach to creating new work as part of the as Artist-in-Residence programme.

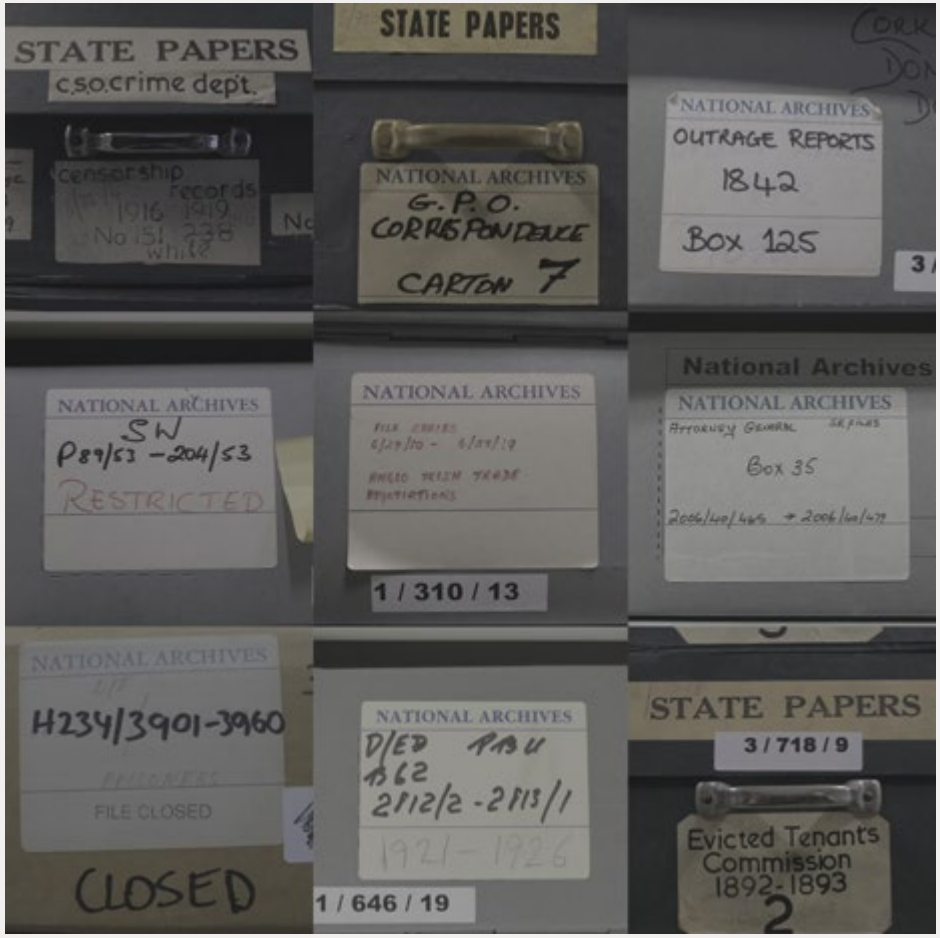


John Beattie is a visual artist based in Dublin. His still and moving-image productions include: *PERFORMING NGI.988* (2016), produced for the 1916 State commemorations in collaboration with the National Gallery of Ireland, the ESB Centre for the Study of Irish Art, and The LAB Gallery, Dublin; and *An Artist, The Studio, and all the rest…* (2006-2012), a two part cinematic moving-image production, exhibited at The Royal Hibernian Academy. Since 2013, Beattie has been researching, producing and directing a new body of work titled *RECONSTRUCTING MONDRIAN* (2013-2020), based on Piet Mondrian's original Paris studio from 1921-1936, in collaboration with The Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag, The Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin, and the Foundation Reconstruction of Mondrian's Studio, The Netherlands.

Beattie has been awarded a number of residencies to date, including the Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris, 2020; the apexart Fellowship, New York, 2015; IMMA, Dublin, 2011; Temple Bar Gallery & Studio, Dublin, 2010; the RHA, Dublin, 2010; and Fire Station Artists' Studios, Dublin, 2006- 2009.

To view Artist in Residence work-in-progress, please visit: *www.studiojohnbeattie.com/national-archives-residency.*

For further information about John Beattie and his work, please visit: *www.johnbeattie.ie*



Re-Performing State Memory:
Site Research, video stills,
National Archives, 2021.



Re-Performing State Memory:
Site Research, video stills,
National Archives, 2021.

Autumn/Winter Talks Series

"'Bring me into the spotlight of a London conference': Michael Collins from Truce to Treaty"

A famously reluctant member of the Irish delegation which negotiated a peace settlement with the British government in autumn 1921, Michael Collins seemed best placed to convince many of those committed to the republic to accept the inevitable compromises. The measure of his success or betrayal, depending on your point of view, often flowed from this ambiguous bind.

While the reasons that took Collins to London are many, by going, he became the focal point of a new and intense type of attention. Using the stories and press reports that circulated about him during the negotiations, Dr Anne Dolan and Dr Will Murphy will consider in this lecture, the nature and consequences of this focus upon Collins. How did it shape the negotiations? Did it help or hinder Collins? Did that 'spotlight' expose, as he feared, 'the common clay of which I am made'? Programmed as part of the Dublin Festival of History, this event is co-hosted by the National Archives and the National Library of Ireland.

Anne Dolan is Associate Professor in Modern Irish History in the Department of History, Trinity College Dublin. She is the author of *Commemorating the Irish Civil War: History and Memory, 1923–2000* and with Cormac K H O'Malley, editor of *'No Surrender Here!' The Civil War Papers of Ernie O'Malley 1922-1924*. Her research focuses on the history of violence in the revolutionary period and the social and cultural history of inter-war Ireland.

William Murphy is Associate Professor at the School of History and Geography, Dublin City University. He is the author of *Political Imprisonment and the Irish, 1912–1921* (2014) and co-editor of *Leisure and the Irish in the Nineteenth Century* (2016) and *The Gaelic Athletic Association, 1884–2009* (2009).

They are joint authors of *Michael Collins: The Man and the Revolution.*

David McCullagh is an RTÉ journalist and a presenter of the Six-One News. He is the author of *The Reluctant Taoiseach*, a biography of John A Costello, *A Makeshift Majority*, a history of the first Inter-Party Government and a two-volume biography of Éamon de Valera, *Volume I: Rise and Volume II: Rule.*



Photograph of Michael Collins c. 1919-1921
National Archives. Reference: DE/2/530

Speakers
Dr Anne Dolan
Associate Professor in Modern Irish History, TCD

Dr William Murphy
Associate Professor, School of History and Geography, DCU

Moderator
David McCullagh
Journalist, author and presenter, RTE

Venue
Main Reading Room
National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 P638

Online Event
Admission Free, Booking information at *https://nli.ticketsolve.com/shows/1173614554*

Date
Thursday,
23 September 2021

Time
8pm

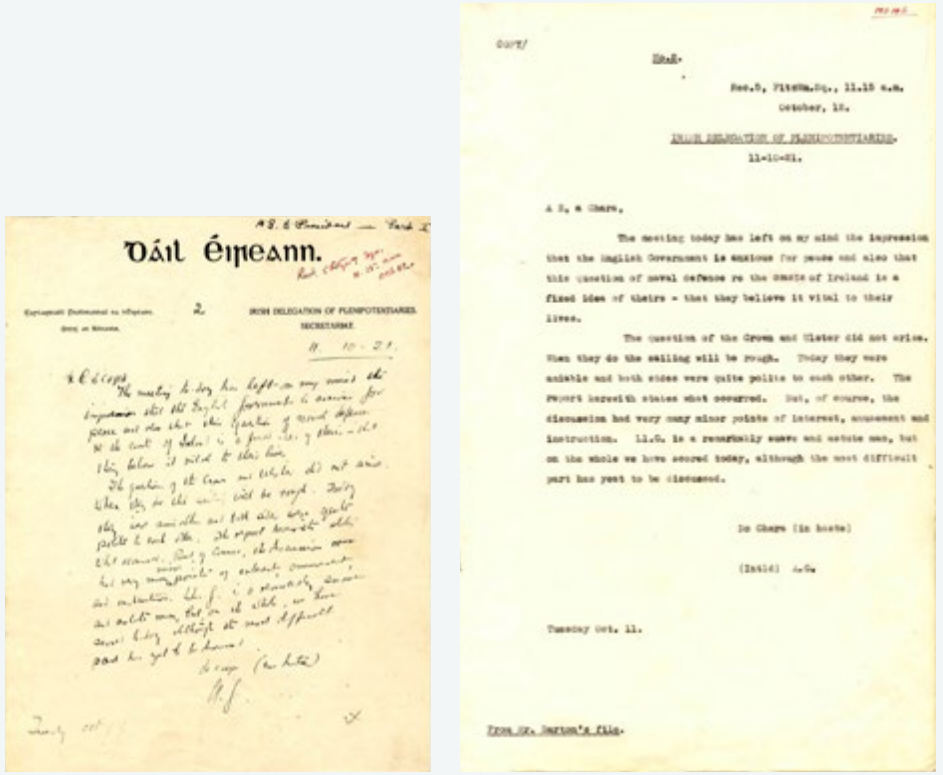
"The Irish delegates made a good impression. I am convinced of their sincerity."
David Lloyd George, 10 November 1921

'The Anglo-Irish Treaty negotiations under the magnifying glass with Michael Portillo in conversation with Dr Marie Coleman'

Michael Portillo and Dr Marie Coleman will discuss the Anglo-Irish Treaty negotiations (11 October–6 December 1921) through the prism of the British and Irish cabinet papers and examine what was at stake for both delegations and their respective governments.

Marie Coleman is a Professor in Modern Irish History at Queen's University, Belfast and author of a number of books in addition to refereed articles and essays on the Irish revolution. She is the joint editor of *Irish Historical Studies* and sits on a number of committees related to the Irish Decade of Centenaries (the Military Service Pensions Project Advisory Committee, the Beyond 2022 International Advisory Board and the Northern Ireland Office Centenary Historical Panel). Dr Coleman has also provided expert comment on the Irish revolution on radio, television and in the press.

Michael Portillo was a Conservative Member of the Westminster Parliament during the periods 1984–1997 and 1999–2005. He was a minister for eleven years and held three cabinet posts. His second career has been in the media. He was a regular on BBC1's satirical political review "This Week" throughout its 16-year run. He has made programmes based on railway journeys for BBC2 for the last thirteen years and production continues. His programmes for RTÉ have been on the centenaries of the Easter Rising, the War of Independence and the creation of Northern Ireland.


Dáil Éireann.

IRISH DELEGATION OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES.

11-10-21.

Letter dated 11 October 1921 from Arthur Griffith to Éamon de Valera giving his impressions of events after the first meeting of the Irish and British delegations that day. Griffith noted that the question of the Crown and Ulster did not arise but predicted that 'When they do the sailing will be rough.' He also described prime minister Lloyd George as 'a remarkably suave and astute man'.
National Archives. Reference: DE/2/304/1/10/10

Speakers
Michael Portillo
Journalist, broadcaster and former British politician

Dr Marie Coleman
Professor in Modern Irish History, School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics, Queen's University, Belfast

Venue
Royal Irish Academy,
19 Dawson Street,
Dublin 2, D02 HH58

Online event
Admission free. Booking information to follow at *www.nationalarchives.ie*

Date
Thursday,
28 October 2021

Time
6pm

‘The Irish Revolution and the making of a new world order: what the archives tell us’

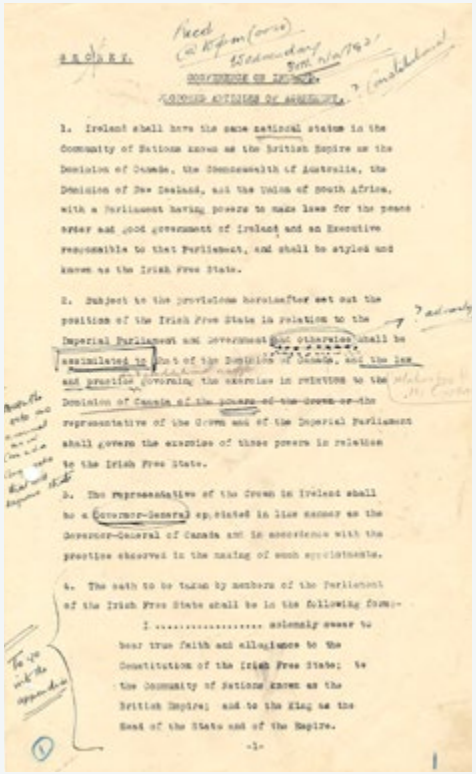
The 20th century was defined by the decline of empire and the emergence of new nations and social and political movements founded on principles of democracy, equality and self-government. Some of the questions arising from this seismic shift in global politics and society will ask what the historical records tell us about the way events occurring in Ireland spoke to the wider dynamics of change that were sweeping the world, from revolutionary struggles to decolonisation and women’s suffrage. Also, how did Ireland’s new political leadership use news and information to mobilise its population and project Ireland to a global public in the brave new world of mass media?
This roundtable will bring together a distinguished group of academics to discuss what archival records can tell us about the ideas of the men and women who built the Irish nation and how they were shaped by and within the new world that was emerging after the First World War and the Irish revolution.

Linda Connolly is Professor of Sociology at Maynooth University. She is the author of several recent publications exploring gender-based violence women experienced in the Irish Revolution (1919–1923) and she led the Irish Research Council-funded ‘Women and the Irish Revolution’ project. Professor Connolly has published a number of books including *The Irish Women’s Movement: From Revolution to Devolution* (London and New York: Palgrave/Macmillan, 2003); *Documenting Irish Feminisms: the Second Wave* (with Tina O’Toole, republished in 2020, Galway: Arlen Press); *Social Movements and Ireland* (with Niamh Hourigan, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2006); *The Irish Family* (London: Routledge, 2014) and *Women and the Irish Revolution: Feminism, Activism, Violence* (Dublin: Irish Academic Press, 2020).

Brian Hanley is Assistant Professor in Irish History at Trinity College Dublin. Much of his research has been focused on Irish republicanism and radicalism, particularly on the politics and activity of the Irish Republican Army. His most recent work has examined the impact of the conflict in Northern Ireland on politics and society in the Republic while his current research investigates the global impact of the Irish revolution (1916–1923).

Fearghal McGarry is Professor of Modern Irish History at Queen’s University, Belfast and a member of the Royal Irish Academy. His books include *The Abbey Rebels of 1916: a Lost Revolution* (2015) and *The Rising: Ireland, Easter 1916* (2016). He recently led the major Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) research project, ‘A Global History of Irish Revolution, 1916–1923’. With Darragh Gannon, he is editor of *Ireland 1922: Independence, Partition, Civil War* recently published by the Royal Irish Academy.

Patrick Geoghegan is Professor in Modern History and teaches in the Department of History at Trinity College Dublin. He presents the award-winning *Talking History* on Newstalk radio and is the author of books on Robert Emmet, the Act of Union and a two-volume study of Daniel O’Connell. Professor Geoghegan was a special adviser to the Taoiseach between June 2017 and June 2020.



1. Ireland shall have the same national status in the Community of Nations known as the British Empire as the Dominion of Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Dominion of New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa, with a Parliament having powers to make laws for the peace order and good government of Ireland and an Executive responsible to that Parliament, and shall be styled and known as the Irish Free State.

2. Subject to the provisions hereinafter set out the position of the Irish Free State in relation to the Imperial Parliament and Government and otherwise shall be assimilated to that of the Dominion of Canada, and the law and practice governing the exercise in relation to the Dominion of Canada of the powers of the Crown or the representative of the Crown and of the Imperial Parliament shall govern the exercise of those powers in relation to the Irish Free State.

3. The representative of the Crown in Ireland shall be a Governor-General appointed in like manner as the Governor-General of Canada and in accordance with the practice observed in the making of such appointments.

4. The oath to be taken by members of the Parliament of the Irish Free State shall be in the following form:-

I ..... solemnly swear to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the Irish Free State; to the Community of Nations known as the British Empire; and to the King as the Head of the State and of the Empire.

-1-

Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins’ annotations of the latest round of proposals submitted by the British delegation, just a week before signing the Treaty.
National Archives.
Reference: DE/2/304/1/8

Speakers

Dr Linda Connolly
Professor of Sociology, Maynooth University

Dr Brian Hanley
Assistant Professor in Twentieth Century Irish History, Trinity College Dublin

Dr Fearghal McGarry
Professor in Modern Irish History, School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics, Queen’s University, Belfast

Moderator
Dr Patrick Geoghegan
Professor in Modern History, Trinity College Dublin

Venue
National Archives, Bishop Street, Dublin 8, D08 DF85.

Online event
Admission free. Booking information to follow at *www.nationalarchives.ie*

Date
Tuesday,
23 November 2021

Time
6pm

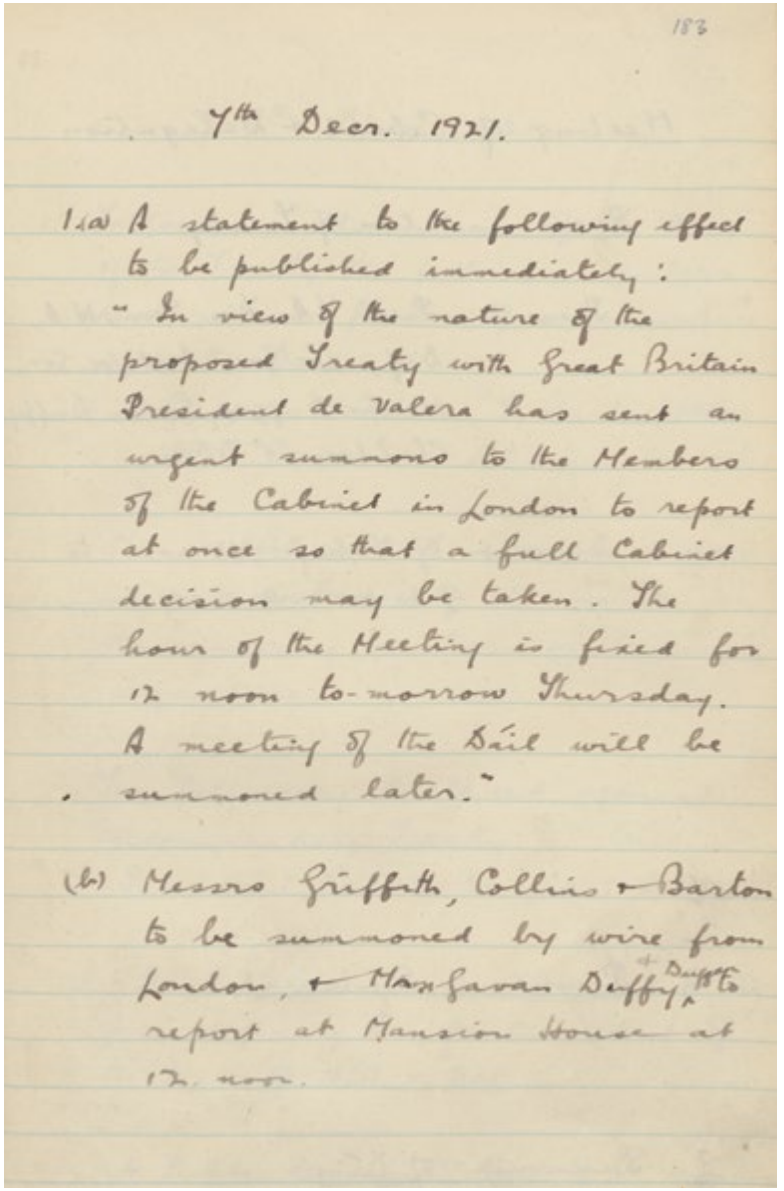
Digitisation Projects

As part of the 2021 Commemoration Programme, the National Archives will undertake to digitise the Cabinet Minute Books April 1919-April 1922 and the records of the Constitution Committee 1922 and make them publicly accessible.

The Cabinet Minute Books April 1919-April 1922
Following the general election of 14 December 1918, the first two sessions of Dáil Éireann or the 'First Dáil' were held in the Mansion House, Dublin on 21st-22nd January 1919. The third session was not held until 1st April 1919 when Eamon de Valera was elected President of Dáil Éireann (Príomh Aire). The following day, he appointed the cabinet of the new Sinn Féin government: Arthur Griffith, Secretary of Home Affairs and Deputy President; Michael Collins, Secretary of Finance; Cathal Brugha, Secretary of Defence; William T Cosgrave, Secretary of Local Government; Count George Nobel Plunkett, Secretary of Foreign Affairs; Countess Constance de Markievicz, Secretary of Labour; and Eoin MacNéill, Secretary of Industries. Robert Barton became head of the Department of Agriculture and Laurence Ginnell, head of the Department of Propaganda. The Cabinet Minute Books April 1919-April 1922 contain records of cabinet meetings from 26th April 1919 to 29th April 1922.

The Constitution Committee 1922
The Constitution Committee was appointed by the Provisional Government in January 1922 to draft the first Constitution of the Irish Free State. It was chaired initially by Michael Collins. The records held in the National Archives comprise minutes, drafts, research and administrative material produced by the workings of the Committee over a period of six weeks.

The National Archives will also continue to work in partnership with the Beyond 2022 project team and other archival institutions in Ireland and the United Kingdom, to digitally reconstruct the record treasury of the Public Record Office of Ireland, including digital copies of archives, destroyed during the Civil War in 1922.


7th Decr. 1921.

1(a) A statement to the following effect to be published immediately:
"In view of the nature of the proposed Treaty with Great Britain President de Valera has sent an urgent summons to the Members of the Cabinet in London to report at once so that a full Cabinet decision may be taken. The hour of the Meeting is fixed for 12 noon to-morrow Thursday. A meeting of the Dáil will be summoned later."

(b) Messrs Griffith, Collins + Barton to be summoned by wire from London, + Mr Gavan Duffy + Duffy to report at Mansion House at 12 noon.

Cabinet minute notes on the acceptance of the Treaty.
National Archives. Reference: DE/1/3/184

Acknowledgements

The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives **is supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 Programme.**

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Dr Kate O'Malley
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University College Dublin, Archives
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Mercier Press
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Patricia Humphries
Dr Neil Johnston

Embassy of Ireland in London
Fionnuala Callinan
Kelly O'Connor

IFI Irish Film Archive
Kassandra O'Connell

RTÉ Archives
Liam Wylie

NUI Galway
Dr Barry Houlihan

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Dr William Murphy
David McCullagh
Michael Portillo
Dr Marie Coleman
Dr Linda Connolly
Dr Brian Hanley
Dr Fearghal McGarry
Dr Patrick Geoghegan

Ambasáid na hÉireann
Embassy of Ireland

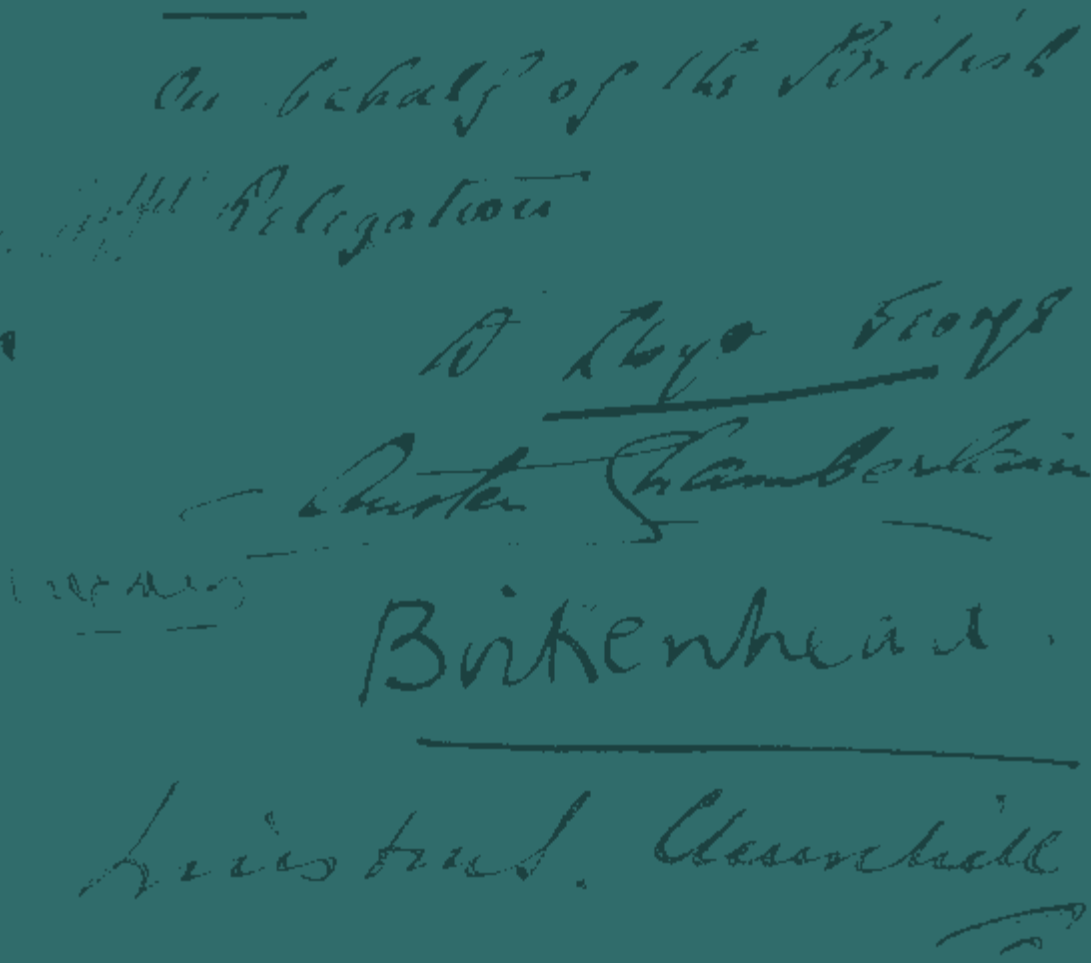
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Due to fears that the talks might collapse the IRA purchased a Martynside A1 Mk. II biplane that could swiftly bring Collins and the other plenipotentiaries back to Ireland. It was kept in readiness in London, and the proposed landing place in Ireland was Leopardstown racecourse, in south County Dublin. The aircraft was later used by the Irish Air Corps. Renamed 'The big fella' in honour of Collins, in this image from February 1923 it is pictured at Air Corps Headquarters at Baldonnel Aerodrome, Dublin.

Military Archives. Reference: PRCN/66/2658





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