

**SCHOOL OF IRISH STUDIES**

**P193**



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## **CONTEXT**

### **Institutional History**

The School of Irish Studies was founded in 1969 as a summer school and in 1970 as a year-round school offering courses in Irish literature, history, politics and Irish culture. The School was initially associated with the travel bureau of USIT (Union of Students in Ireland) for administrative purposes. However, the commercial element to this arrangement was inconsistent with the academic aims of the School and the association ended in 1974 when the School was set up as a non-profit making company limited by guarantee. Throughout its existence the School was registered as a charity, received no government funding and relied totally on student fees. Any surplus was put back into the School to develop the library and other facilities. From 1972 to 1974 it was based in Harcourt Street. In 1976 the School became a tenant of the RDS and rented a portion of the premises Thomas Prior House in Ballsbridge.

The student body was drawn primarily from North America and Canada. From the outset it sought to fill a gap for foreign students in the Irish third level education sector, offering a framework where credits could be accumulated and certified for use in the student's home universities. The courses offered by the School covered a comprehensive range of liberal arts subjects based on Irish culture including literature, history, folklore, art and politics. The teaching faculty was drawn primarily from University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin, with occasional guest lecturers.

The Governing Body was responsible for directing and controlling the work of the School with the Executive Committee responsible for the day-to-day activities of the School. From a structural point of view the Dean (Michael Scott, then Seán White) reported to the Executive Committee which was in turn answerable to the Governing Body. The Dean who acted as academic director and chief executive officer was assisted in his work by the Registrar and an Executive Assistant. An Academic Advisory Council advised on courses, standards, admissions and faculty appointments.

From 1973 to 1988 the School offered a Spring and Autumn Semester programme. Student numbers were healthy and growing. So much so that when an opportunity arose to purchase the premises at Thomas Prior House from the RDS it was considered a viable and timely opportunity. In 1985 the School paid £325,000 for the premises and set about carrying out a major conservation and refurbishment programme on the building. It now had very attractive premises where it could showcase the courses on offer to an American audience drawn primarily from a select list of colleges.

For a time the School operated a successful model and was clearly offering an opportunity that could not be found in the more established universities. However, despite their efforts, competition from the university sector in Ireland and Britain grew and began to attract foreign students to those institutions which in turn led to a decline in student numbers attending the School of Irish Studies. The Board began to seek an alternative opportunity; in particular it saw its future in associating with either UCD or TCD and an integration that would see it operating on a university campus but as a separate entity. Despite negotiations with UCD and

TCD between 1987 and 1989 a successful integration could not be achieved.

Between 1984 and 1986 attention turned towards America and attempts were made to fundraise through a Board of Regents and an incorporated body known as the Irish Studies Foundation Inc. Despite much effort on behalf of the School by the Dean, Seán White, and the Chairman, Patrick Kilroy, as well as the appointment of a US consultancy firm, this did not yield anything like the money required and the School had to face a painful decision to suspend the semester programme and ultimately sell Thomas Prior House. In April 1988 the Board of Governors approved the sale of the premises for £650,000. Although this was a serious blow for the School, it was by any standards a very profitable outcome. The sale price enabled the School to pay back loans incurred by the refurbishment programme, settle outstanding debts and offer suitable redundancy to salaried staff as well as leaving a surplus to start an endowment fund.

The profit gained from the sale allowed the School of Irish Studies to rethink its aims and objectives and to come up with a model to promote itself in line with the original Articles of Association. No longer able to compete with UCD or TCD in offering an educational programme to foreign students it turned its attention to providing financial assistance to individuals engaged in scholarly research and projects relating to the history and culture of Ireland, establishing the Irish Studies Foundation. From 1990 to 2003 it encouraged applications from scholars and academics, as well as small cultural bodies. Awards were given annually.

Inevitably, without additional revenue the fund began to dwindle. Some attempt was made to apply through the Arts Council of Ireland and the Ireland Fund to maintain the fund but the efforts were not successful. In January 2003 the Board of Governors contacted the Foundation's solicitors requesting them to initiate the winding up of the company. The official strike-off notice was issued by the Companies Registration Office in October 2003.

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### **Archival History**

Deposited in 2003 by Professor Kevin B. Nowlan with additional deposits by Rosemarie Mulcahy in 2003 and Joe McCullough in 2004.

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## **CONTENT AND STRUCTURE**

### **Scope and Content**

File concerning the foundation and formation of the School including the Articles of Association 1971–3

Series of files listing the programme of study of the School of Irish Studies, details of the courses offered in creative writing, Irish literature, poetry, drama, Irish language, archaeology, history and politics. Biographical profiles on individual lecturers, comprehensive reading lists, class schedules including extra-curricular activities, outings and excursions. Lists of American colleges represented and the names of students enrolled on the programme, 1970–88.

Minutes, correspondence, memoranda, reports of the Board of Governors and Executive Committee, 1974–2003.

Minutes, correspondence, notes and memoranda of the Finance Committee, 1984–91.

Series of audited financial accounts of the School, 1974–94.

Extensive file of correspondence, notes, memoranda, reports and copies of legal documents concerning the purchase of Thomas Prior House from the RDS, 1981–86.

File of correspondence, notes, minutes of meetings, reports and copies of legal documents relating to the sale of Thomas Prior House by the School of Irish Studies, 1988.

Files relating to the negotiations between the School of Irish Studies and UCD and TCD in an effort to create a viable association between the School and the two universities, 1987–9.

Reports and correspondence relating to the establishment and eventual winding up of the Irish Studies Foundation Inc. in America, 1984–95.

Correspondence, publicity material and press releases concerning the financial awards made by the School of Irish Studies Foundation to individuals and cultural institutions to support their work in the promotion of Irish culture including Irish history, literature, the arts, the preparation of books, articles and the holding of events such as conferences, seminars, lectures and exhibitions, 1991–2001.

Official strike-off notice issued by the Companies Registration Office officially dissolving the company, the School of Irish Studies Ltd, 2003.

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**System of Arrangement**

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<b>2</b>	<b>FACULTY, 1969-90</b>	<b>9</b>
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## **CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE**

### **Access**

Available by appointment to holders of a UCDA reader's ticket. Produced for consultation in digital format.

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### **Language**

English.

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### **Finding Aid**

Descriptive Catalogue.

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## **DESCRIPTION CONTROL**

### **Archivist's Note**

Descriptive catalogue completed by Orna Somerville, February 2014.

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**1 ESTABLISHMENT, 1971-7**

**P193/1** 4 February 1971-16 December 1974

198pp

**Transfer from Usitours**

Minutes of meetings, agendas, notes, memoranda, and correspondence concerning the transfer of the School of Irish Studies from Usitours and the establishment of the School as an independent academic institution.

Includes:

- Detailed minutes of the Advisory Committee of the School of Irish Studies summarising the School's activities since 1969 and a comprehensive report by the Dean, Michael Scott, on his visit to the USA in order to promote the School. Provides a list of the colleges visited. The minutes also record a statement read by Dr Harmon, Chairman of the Advisory Committee, at the meeting on the topic of the relationship of the School with the parent body (Usitours). Stresses the achievements of the School but raises concerns over the on-going connection with a commercial body such as Usitours and how this may impact on the future growth and reputation of the School. Refers to the Advisors to the School which the School depends on and how their prestige lends credibility to the School. Remarks 'Their trust is something which the School must not abuse. In the future they must be more directly involved either as trustees of the School, members of its governing body, holders of a limited, non-profit making company, or whatever corporate existence the School may be given.' Continues 'During the past year I have been increasingly worried by my inability to achieve the independence for the School and its constitution as a non-profit making organisation that I stated in my letter of last year to the Advisors as one of our primary aims. Sean Dempsey [Director of Administration] and I have always had this aim. From the start we agreed that by November 1, 1971 we would have established the School's independent status. In the past he has supported the principle of quality over quantity and during this past year has tried repeatedly to have this point of view heard and respected by the Board of Usitours. They have not responded well. We have been put off from month to month with assurances and promises which they have failed to put into practice.' Continues 'I want to make it clear ... that the future of the School depends on being granted autonomy, on being able to plan ahead independently and to use its resources without having to justify its actions to an accountant in a complex and vast commercial concern.' A detailed summary of the discussion which took place after this report is recorded with continuing contributions by the Dean, Michael Scott, the Director of Administration Seán Dempsey, Dr Maurice Harmon, Chairman, Professor T.W. Moody, Professor Kevin B. Nowlan, Professor A. Norman Jeffares and Professor Roger McHugh. Also includes contributions and clarification from Mr

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Gordon Colleary, Director of Usitours who was supportive of the School needing a new structure. General agreement at the meeting that talks to formalise a new structure should start (6 July 1971, 11pp).

- Proposal outlining the new structure of the School in the form of a Limited Liability Company to be totally autonomous, non-profit making and directed by a Board of Governors with the help of committees. Other arrangements include an agreement with Usitours that they will service the contract for student flights to Ireland, that they will lease the building currently in use by the School and that they will assist the School with financial backing, no conditions attached, if this is required ([6 July 1971], 2pp).
- Copy of a letter from Professor David H. Greene, Department of English, New York University to Dr Maurice Harmon thanking him for a copy of the minutes of a meeting held on 6 July 1971. Expresses his deep concern on learning that the School had been associated with a commercial organisation and was being run for profit. Describes this as a 'revelation' to him. Remarks 'If I had thought, or been aware, of the fact that the School had essentially a different objective, that is, of promoting tourism I would have wished it well indeed but I would have wondered why it wanted to use my name and the names of my colleagues to promote the School simply as an educational operation.' Concludes his letter by asking for a full explanation of the finances of the School '... I am concerned about the fact that as an educator I have recommended the School of Irish Studies to scores of American students and because my own professional reputation is involved in my endorsement' (29 October 1971, 2pp).
- Copy of the minutes of the Management Committee of the School of Irish Studies, primarily dealing with the ratification of the Dean's duties and the appointment of Michael Scott as Dean and Mary New as Administrative Assistant. Refers also to the School's premises, 27 Harcourt Street, and the efforts to obtain vacant possession ([1972], 7pp).
- Copy of the minutes of the Management Committee, School of Irish Studies and the new structure of the School. Concerns regarding the forthcoming summer session were raised due to the lack of enquiries as well as concerns for the provision of a budget for the purchase of books. Dean Scott also raised the issue of his salary which he considered to be too low (26 February 1972, 5pp).
- Minutes of a meeting of the School of Irish Studies. Provides a brief history of the foundation of the School from its inception including the activities of the School from that time. Refers to the administration of the School, the School's premises, financial situation and the establishment of the School as an independent entity. Annotated (12 June [1972], 15pp).
- Letter from Kennedy Crowley & Co Chartered Accountants, Harcourt House, Harcourt Street, Dublin 2 to Gordon Colleary, Director, Usitours Ltd, 7 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 providing a detailed review of the revenue earned and expenditure incurred by the School of Irish Studies from 1967

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- to 1971 (15 June 1972, 5pp).
- Letter from Maurice Harmon on behalf of the Advisors and Faculty to Gordon Colleary, USIT, St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 informing him that since no reply to their offer has been received the Advisors and Faculty have taken the decision to 'terminate' their association with the School of Irish Studies (21 June 1972, 1p).
  - Further letter from Maurice Harmon to Gordon Colleary remarking on the 'inordinate delay' in receiving a reply from USIT to the financial offer of £7,500. Remarks 'In the circumstances we are not disposed to make any amendments to our original proposal' (25 June 1972, 1p).
  - Letter from Gordon Colleary to Michael concerning a meeting to attempt to come to an agreement about the establishment of the School of Irish Studies as an independent body separate from USIT. Remarks that he is 'shattered' especially considering the '... amicable, detailed and constructive meeting of last week' and cannot understand the changed position. Continues 'If I can see a logical explanation of your changed position, it is that there appears to be among your number some who believe that any payment to us is in fact gratuitous and therefore from our point of view, anything must be better than nothing. It might help to clear the air to state that this is not a basis on which we are prepared to have any kind of discussion. We consider the first offer of the Committee to be unfair and I personally felt it was somewhat immoral.' Provides a summary of the offer made orally by Maurice Harmon and a formal reply to the terms of this oral offer (12 July 1972, 4pp).
  - Copy of a letter from Michael Scott, The Abbey Farm, Bective, County Meath to Gordon Colleary, Usitours, 5 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 concerning the negotiations to acquire ownership and control of the School of Irish Studies. Outlines the basis of the offer and remarks that the terms offered are the best that can be put forward and are not open for negotiation (13 July 1972, 2pp).
  - Letter from Gordon Colleary to Michael Scott making him an offer of becoming chief executive of the School of Irish Studies. Outlines the terms and conditions of the offer (14 July 1972, 2pp).
  - Copy of a reply thanking Gordon Colleary for his offer but declining it. Suggests 'one final meeting' to see if any agreement can be reached (21 July 1972, 1p).
  - Copy of an outline concerning a compensation amount due to Usitours for the development and costs for the School of Irish Studies. Refers to a reluctance to name a figure fearing it would not meet expectations, being either too low from Usitours point of view or too high from the Committee advocating an independently run School. Outlines some costs and how these calculations have been arrived at. Annotated ([August] 1972, 1p).
  - Draft summary of the negotiated deal between the group supporting the establishment of the School of Irish Studies as an independent academic institution namely Michael Herity representing the teaching staff, Kevin B. Nowlan, representing

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the advisors, Gordon Colleary representing USI (Union of Students in Ireland) and Michael Scott, former Dean. Annotated ([August] 1972, 2pp).

- Minutes of the provisional committee of management of the School of Irish Studies discussing the agreement reached and clarifying details of the deal with Usitours (14 September 1972, 1p).
- Copy of a memorandum from Gordon Colleary to Michal Herity, Maurice Harmon, Kevin B. Nowlan and Michael Scott informing them that they will shortly learn of the purchase by AIB of a controlling interest in the Usitours group. Assures them that the bank will honour the agreement to establish the School as an independent academic institution. Remarks that the bank intends to sponsor the School financially and require the right to nominate people to the Board (21 September 1972, 1p).
- Minutes of the provisional committee of management of the School of Irish Studies discussing in further detail the points raised in Mr Colleary's memorandum relating to AIB and their sponsorship of the School of Irish Studies (25 September 1972, 1p).
- Notes on a meeting with Mr Michael Carroll, Assistant General Manager, Planning and Administration, Allied Irish Banks. Refers to the points discussed and the overall positive nature of the meeting (29 September 1972, 2pp).
- Draft balance sheet detailing the profit and loss of the School of Irish Studies to the end of October 1972. Annotated (31 October 1972, 2pp).
- Holograph notes [by Michael Scott] taken at meetings with Gordon Colleary of Usitours concerning the on-going negotiations to establish independent status for the School of Irish Studies. The meetings covered various topics including the transfer fees, the setting up of a management committee, travel arrangements, rent on premises, salaries and pensions of administration staff, and loan arrangements (28 November 1972, 6pp).
- Holograph notes [by Michael Scott] taken at a meeting with 'M.C.' (Michael Carroll, AIB) concerning the negotiations to establish the School of Irish Studies as an independent entity. Points raised include financial arrangements, the formation of a management committee, the sharing of the accommodation facilities with Usitours, and loan arrangements (1 December 1972, 3pp).
- Summary of the lengthy negotiations to establish the School of Irish Studies as an independent unit (1 December 1970, 6pp).
- Letter from Gordon Colleary Director, Usitours Ltd, 5 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 to Michael Scott, Dean, School of Irish Studies concerning the proposals for the formation of the School of Irish Studies as an independent limited company. Outlines clarification on two points, namely the representation of Usitours or AIB as one of the directors of the School and the question of the veto. Remarks that this is to protect the financial element of the deal and the payment of monies to Usitours. Remarks 'It is the intention of Usitours to continue

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to support the School in the foreseeable future even if its financial situation does not improve immediately ... We would, however, in no way be able to influence the possibility of the School obtaining financial support elsewhere and we would, in fact, do everything possible to facilitate this if this course of action were being considered' (27 June 1973, 2pp).

- Copy of a letter from Michael Scott, Dean, to Michael Carroll, AIB and copies circulated to Gordon Colleary, Usitours and Kevin Nowlan referring to points raised at a Committee meeting concerning the final settlement of the School of Irish Studies. Remarks that the committee are in general agreement with the proposals but have asked for a speedy conclusion of the audit to be carried out by Kennedy Crowley and have queried the necessity of retaining Kennedy Crowley as auditors due to the expense (14 September 1973, 1p).
- Copy of a letter from Michael Scott, Dean to Professor Kevin Nowlan, 40 Crannagh Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14 concerning a telephone conversation with Michal Carroll of AIB and the increasing frustration both felt over the delay by Usitours to complete the audit. Michael Carroll also confirmed to Dean Scott that the bank did not wish to interfere with the freedom of the new Board of Governors but wanted to ensure that debts occurring would be monitored. He also confirmed that if the new Board had a serious objection to the presence of a nominee from the bank '... a way could be found around that point.' Dean Scott replied that the Board would be happy to have Mr Carroll serve as a nominee of the bank (16 October 1973, 2pp).
- Minutes of a meeting between Michael Carroll and John Keogh of AIB representing Usitours and Professor Kevin Nowlan, Dr Maurice Harmon, Dr Michael Herity and Dean Michael Scott representing the School. The meeting was informed by Michael Carroll that he would conduct all further negotiations. Lists the points of agreement between the parties for establishing the School as a Limited Liability Company. Outlines a further two points requiring either a formal agreement or at the very least a 'trusting understanding'. These two points related to the audit, finances and debt of the School (29 November 1973, 2pp).
- Copy of a report by Dean Michael Scott providing a general assessment, following his visit to the USA, of the interest expressed in the School and what numbers may be expected to apply. Remarks that uncertainty prevails because of the stability of the American economy and inflation. Offers two alternative views open to Usitours and their handling of the School. Discusses the costs involved. Outlines the prospects for the next twelve months up to the end of 1974. Summarises the estimated costs for the Spring and Fall semesters (21 February 1974, 7pp).
- List of the American universities and colleges represented in the School of Irish Studies for each of the years 1970 to 1973 (2pp).
- Letter from J.F. Donovan, Chairman, Usitravel Ltd, 5 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 to Michael Scott, Dean, School of

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Irish Studies informing him that Usitours have taken the decision to close the School of Irish Studies at the end of the semester. Remarks 'I know this comes as a blow to you because of your good work but I think you understand our position (5 March 1974, 1p).

- Document outlining the situation facing the School of Irish Studies following AIB's decision to '...cut its losses and close the School...' Outlines what needs to be done to maintain the School including the finding of suitable premises and the necessity of raising funds in order to carry on. Includes an estimate of costs (11 March 1974, 3pp).
- Minutes of a committee meeting dealing with the crisis facing the School in light of AIB's decision to close the School. Present at the meeting were Professor Kevin Nowlan, Dr Maurice Harmon, Dr Michael Herity, Michael Scott and Mary New. A full and frank discussion took place and the issues raised ranged from the immediate task of establishing a Board of Governors mandated to seek financial assistance to the frustration felt by Michael Scott at the apparent reluctance of the committee to make hard decisions (15 March 1974, 3pp).
- Letter from J.F. Donovan, Chairman, Usitravel Ltd, 5 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 to Michael Scott, Dean, School of Irish Studies concerning the winding up of Usitours' interest in the School of Irish Studies and confirming their willingness to come to an arrangement about the acquisition of the fixed assets. Informs him that they will need to take possession of the premises at 27 Harcourt Street quickly. Concludes 'We realise that this presents you with a really difficult challenge ... but we have confidence in your Board of Governors ... If you accept this challenge you can rely on our good will to facilitate you in any way we can' (19 March 1974, 1p).
- Minutes of a meeting of the Steering committee reporting on progress concerning the formation of a Board of Governors and the appropriate people and firms to approach for funds to support the School (10 April 1974, 2pp).
- Letter from Professor Larry McCaffrey, Department of History, Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois to Michael Scott replying to a letter from the Dean in which he updated Professor McCaffrey on the difficulties facing the School. Remarks that he has given Michael Scott's letter a lot of thought and has decided not to remain on the Advisory Committee. Remarks 'When the School first started it was kind of a joint effort of Irish and Americans working in Irish Studies, but now the American academics are mere window dressing ... Much of the idealism of early days seems to have vanished. Frankly I have no desire to lend my name to an enterprise completely outside my influence.' (16 June 1974, 1p).
- Copy of a letter from J.F. Donovan, Assistant General Manager, AIB Ltd to Professor Michael MacCormac, Faculty of Commerce, University College Dublin confirming the bank's willingness to finalise matters with the School of Irish Studies. Remarks that the bank have agreed to a £5000 purchase price, that the School cannot appeal for funds from the bank, that Usitravel have no further responsibility for the School staff and

**P193/1** that the bank must have vacant possession of the premises at 27 Harcourt Street by the end of July 1974 (5 July 1974, 1p).

**P193/2** 28 October 1971–22 September 1977

186pp

**Memorandum and Articles of Association**

Correspondence, drafts, copies and final copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the School of Irish Studies drawn up as a legal requirement for the establishment of the School as an independent limited company. Also alterations to the Memoranda and Articles of Association.

- Draft outline of a suggested structure for the School of Irish Studies with a brief description of the roles involved (not dated, 2pp).
- Profile of the School of Irish Studies (not dated, 4pp).
- Three drafts of the Memorandum of Association of the School of Irish Studies. Annotated (20 October–16 November 1971, 62pp).
- Copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association marked 'Original' (8 October 1974, 24pp).
- Copy of a letter from Brian J. O'Connor, McCann Fitzgerald Roche & Dudley Solicitors, 51 & 52 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2 to Michael Scott, Dean, School of Irish Studies, 27 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2 informing him that the Company has been incorporated and that before proceeding to act as a business that the School must obtain clearance from the Revenue Commissioners to recognise the Company as a charity. Advises him that arrangements for holding the first meeting of the Board of Governors as well as the appointment of directors and a secretary of the Company may proceed (15 October 1974, 1p).
- Letter from John J. Coffey, McCann Fitzgerald Roche & Dudley Solicitors, 51 & 52 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2 to Michael Scott, Dean, School of Irish Studies, 27 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2 informing him that the Revenue Commissioners are not satisfied that the Memorandum and Articles of Association in their current form will satisfy the requirements to qualify for tax liability exemption. Lists the clauses identified by the Revenue Commissioners and suggests an alternative wording. Asks Michael Scott to consider the amendments required (28 May 1975, 3pp).
- Copy of a reply indicating that the executive Committee are agreeable to the alterations proposed (12 June 1975, 1p).
- Letter from John J. Coffey, McCann Fitzgerald Roche & Dudley Solicitors, 51 & 52 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2 to Michael Scott, Dean, School of Irish Studies, Thomas Prior House, Merrion Road, Dublin 4 confirming that the final alterations to the Memorandum and Articles of Association have been accepted by the Companies Registration Office (16 May 1977, 1p).

**P193/3** 29 November 1973–1 April 1977

18pp

**Formation**

Minutes and notices relating to the setting up of the School of Irish Studies and its Articles of Association.

Includes:

- Minutes of a meeting at which agreement was reached to establish the School as a Limited Liability Company by 1 January 1974, to open a bank account in the School's name with Allied Irish Banks, to draw up the Memorandum and Articles of Association, that a representative from Allied Irish Banks be appointed to the Board of the School, that the School should appoint its own Auditor, agreement by the Bank to the use of the premises at 27 Harcourt Street, and agreement on other financial matters (29 November 1973, 2pp).
- Minutes of a committee meeting recording the frank exchanges by those present at the meeting, namely Professor Kevin Nowlan, Dr Maurice Harmon, Dr Michael Herity, Michael Scott and Mary New. Concerns regarding the future progress of the School were raised including student numbers, enlargement of the School, finance, premises, the need for a Board of Governors, and the lack of urgency in deciding on the next step (15 March 1974, 3pp).
- Minutes of a meeting of the advisors and teachers of the School of Irish Studies. A summary of the situation to date was provided by Dean Michael Scott referring to the negotiations with Usitours ultimately leading to an agreement, in principle, that the School set up as an independent, non-profit making limited liability company and that Usitours be paid £12,000 for the fixed assets and losses incurred by them. Initially this sum of money was to be loaned by AIB and repaid, with interest, over a period of five years. Dean Scott went on to explain that the bank had now changed their minds about the loan and were also pressing the School to vacate the premises at 27 Harcourt Street. The situation now facing the School was closure at the end of the current semester or continuing in existence without the support of AIB. The School would also have to realise a sum of £5000–£6000 for the purchase of the fixed assets. A lengthy discussion concerning whether the School was worth saving and was it possible to save it took place with various opinions being offered about the future direction of the School (5 April 1974, 6pp).
- Minutes of the Steering Committee concerning the setting up of a Board of Governors and securing financial contributors and donations for the School (10 April 1974, 2pp).
- Notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting of the School of Irish Studies for the purpose of considering and passing certain Resolutions relating to the Memorandum of Association of the Company (3 March 1976, 2pp).
- Notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting of the School of Irish Studies for the purpose of considering and passing a Resolution relating to the Memorandum of Association of the

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- Company ([1 April] 1977, 1p).
- Copy of the Articles of Association of the School of Irish Studies (not dated, 2pp).

## **2 FACULTY, 1969–90**

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1969–70

35pp

### **Memoranda**

File of memoranda compiled by Dean Michael Scott relating to the administration and teaching of the School of Irish Studies.

Includes:

- Foundation of the School; the first two summer schools; the School Year; the need for a proper School building ([2 July–11 August 1969], 6pp).
- Basis of Award of Scholarships (not dated, 1p).
- Future Expansion of the School—Continental European Students; Additional courses for summer and year round school (not dated, 2pp).
- Year round school—suggested teaching arrangements (not dated, 1p).
- Staff meetings (not dated, 1p).
- Course-related and extra-curricular activities (23 October–10 December 1970, 2pp).
- Procedures for lecturers (not dated, 1p).
- Items for consideration in report (not dated, 1p).
- Registration and orientation (not dated, 2pp).
- Renting or buying of 27 Harcourt Street—some practical considerations (not dated, 2pp).
- School of Irish Studies suggested structures (not dated, 1p).
- Detail of suggested structures (not dated, 3pp).
- Administration—Special interim arrangement (not dated, 2pp).
- Aims of the School ([1969], 4pp).
- Interim partial report (15 October 1970, 3pp).
- Outline of structure. Annotated (not dated, 3pp).

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1974–90

38pp

### **Students and Alumni**

Lists of students of the School of Irish Studies and the US colleges they represented. Also correspondence, invitation, draft form relating to the efforts made by the School to establish an alumni association.

Includes:

- A summary and analysis of fees paid and the direct relation to the income of the School is outlined as well as the surplus per

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- student and the expenditure per student (1974–87, 31pp).
- Draft of a letter prepared by Anthony G. Cahill setting out the aims and objectives of the alumni association to maintain contact with former students, promote the School, to distribute a newsletter and to organise reunions. Initiates the start of the association by issuing an invitation to a reunion dinner in Boston. Encloses an alumni update form and an appeal to identify alumni with which the School has lost contact (20 November 1985, 4pp).
  - Circular letter from Mary New, Sean White and Theresa Nolan extending Christmas and New Year wishes to alumni and asking for suggestions and support for future reunions (10 December 1990, 1p).

1970–88

895pp

**Study Programme**

Series of files containing details of the programme of study offered by the School of Irish Studies. Includes details of the courses offered in creative writing, Irish literature, poetry and drama, Irish authors, Irish language, Irish archaeology, 19<sup>th</sup> century Irish history, revolutionary Ireland, Irish political science. Provides details of the individual lecturers who taught on the courses offered, comprehensive reading lists, class schedules including the extra-curricular activities, outings and excursions offered by the School, lists of the American Colleges represented in the School of Irish Studies and the names of students enrolled in the programme. Also student notices, itineraries. From 1970 to 1972 the programme was held three times a year in the spring, summer and autumn. In 1971 a winter term was offered. From 1973 it was offered twice a year in the spring and autumn until the final session in spring 1988.

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1970–71

18pp

**Study Programme**

Includes:

- Prospectus providing a general outline of the 'year round programme' of study offered by the School of Irish Studies.

**P193/7**

Summer 1970

28pp

**Study Programme**

**P193/8** Autumn 1970  
16pp  
**Study Programme**

**P193/9** Spring 1971  
10pp  
**Study Programme**

**P193/10** Summer 1971  
17pp  
**Study Programme**

**P193/11** Autumn 1971  
30pp  
**Study Programme**

**P193/12** Winter 1971  
13pp  
**Study Programme**

**P193/13** Spring 1972  
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**Study Programme**

**P193/14** Summer 1972  
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**Study Programme**

**P193/15** Autumn 1972  
18pp  
**Study Programme**

**P193/16** Spring 1973  
16pp  
**Study Programme**

**P193/17** Autumn 1973  
15pp  
**Study Programme**

**P193/18** Spring 1974  
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**Study Programme**

**P193/19** Autumn 1974  
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**Study Programme**

**P193/20** Spring 1975  
22pp  
**Study Programme**

**P193/21** Autumn 1975  
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**Study Programme**

**P193/22** Spring 1976  
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**Study Programme**

**P193/23** Autumn 1977  
24pp  
**Study Programme**

**P193/24** Spring 1978  
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**Study Programme**

**P193/25** Autumn 1978  
7pp  
**Study Programme**

**P193/26** Spring 1979  
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**Study Programme**

**P193/27** Autumn 1979  
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**Study Programme**

**P193/28** Spring 1980  
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**Study Programme**

**P193/29** Spring 1981  
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**P193/30** Autumn 1981  
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**Study Programme**

**P193/31** Spring 1982  
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**P193/32** Autumn 1982  
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**P193/33** Spring 1983  
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**P193/34** Autumn 1983  
32pp  
**Study Programme**

**P193/35** Spring 1984  
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**Study Programme**

**P193/36** Autumn 1984  
28pp  
**Study Programme**

**P193/37** Spring 1985  
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**Study Programme**

**P193/38** Autumn 1985  
36pp  
**Study Programme**

**P193/39** Spring 1986  
34pp  
**Study Programme**

**P193/40** Autumn 1986  
31pp  
**Study Programme**

**P193/41** Spring 1987  
32pp  
**Study Programme**

**P193/42** Autumn 1987  
27pp  
**Study Programme**

**P193/43** Spring 1988

24pp

**Study Programme**

**P193/44** 1983-9

31pp

**Publicity**

2 brochures advertising the School of Irish Studies. Includes a brief history of the School, information on the academic and administrative structures, profiles of the staff, outline of the courses offered, accommodation for students, and fees.

**P193/45** 24 January 1984

3pp

**Academic Council meeting**

Minutes of an Academic Council meeting. Includes a review of current courses and a report on a new course on Irish Theatre. Refers to a discussion concerning the viability of running a public lecture series. Decision not to pursue the idea of publishing a journal due to viability and the work involved in producing it.

**P193/46** February 1986-2 June 1989

10pp

**Library**

Valuation, memorandum, letters, and a newspaper cutting.

Includes:

- Copy of a letter from [Seán White, Dean], School of Irish Studies to Professor Adele Dalsimer, Department of English, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Boston, Mass, USA concerning the decision taken by the School to end its semester programmes. Remarks that the decision was taken in light of a number of developments over the years including the financial strain on the School to provide suitable premises and the fact that the work of the School is now being carried out by universities and other state-funded institutions which the School finds increasingly difficult to compete with. Refers to the library of the School, built up over twenty years and offers the library to Boston College in its entirety. Explains the reluctance to break up the library and mentions a figure of \$100,00 Remarks 'The funding (from the sale of the library) ...

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would be devoted to the School of Irish Studies general scholarship and research fund ... part of it could be designated to a Boston College Fellowship or Scholarship ...' (2 June 1989, 2pp).

### **3 STRUCTURE**

#### **3.1 Executive Committee, 1974–2002**

26 November 1974–28 November 2002

4 vols

##### **Executive Committee minute books**

Series of minute books of the Executive Committee of the School of Irish Studies. Includes discussion on the finances of the School, accommodation, the development of the School, the School's profile, and student recruitment.

**P190/47**

26 November 1974–28 March 1979

46pp

##### **Executive Committee minute book**

Includes:

- Discussion concerning the financial situation of the School and suggestions about raising funds through contacts with bodies such as the American-Irish Foundation, Bord Fáilte, and An Foras Éireann. Also arrangements for paying back the loan to the bank for the purchase of the School (26 November 1974, 2pp).
- Consideration of rooms in the RDS (Royal Dublin Society) in Prior House and the extension of an existing lease for the School. Discussion on the merits of the Dean (Michael Scott) attending the annual conference of the Canadian Association for Irish Studies and the prospect of attracting Canadian students to the School (23 January 1975, 1p).
- Concern over the drop in student numbers and the reason for this drop and the effect on the financial situation of the School. Decision to explore the possibility of attracting German and French students by contacting the cultural counsellors of the embassies of the two countries. Agreement that the first annual general meeting of the School should be held in March (26 January 1975, 1p).
- Suggestion that an Advisory Academic Committee be formed following a discussion during the AGM and a discussion concerning the format and role of the committee. Discussion also with regard to 'affiliation' with a larger academic body (13 May 1975, 2pp).
- Report on the first meeting of the Academic Advisory Committee and suggestions that an Examination Board be appointed and that the title of the committee should be

**P193/47**

- changed to the Academic Council (1 July 1976, 2pp).
- Comment that an alteration to the Memorandum and Articles of Association had been completed. Discussion of course content and a suggestion from Dr Peter Harbison for more lectures on Early Christian artwork (5 October 1976, 2pp).
  - Lengthy discussion concerning the tax liabilities of the School and exemptions (3 February 1977, 2pp).
  - Decision to turn down an approach for the use of a room and the School's address in the RDS for the new art periodical 'Crane Bag' (3 February 1977, 2pp).
  - Discussion concerning a letter received from the School's solicitors and their discussions with the Revenue Commissioners and the tax liabilities of the School. Observes that the School received poor advice regarding their status (24 February 1977, 2pp).
  - Concern over the Irish Studies programme being offered by UCD and the effect this may have on the School of Irish Studies (18 January 1978, 3pp).
  - Records that Bord Fáilte have given a Scholarship of £250 to be known as the 'Bord Fáilte Scholarship' (8 March 1978).
  - Discussion concerning the School's liability for income tax and a further discussion concerning the investment of a portion of the School's surplus (8 March 1978).

**P193/48** 9 May 1979–11 September 1985

99pp

**Executive Committee minute book**

Includes:

- Reporting on a discussion held at a special meeting of the Board and Faculty concerning the achievements of the School and a decision that UCD would not be approached for formal recognition at this time (27 June 1979, 3pp).
- Agreement that a course in Fine Art should be introduced (27 June 1979, 3pp).
- Discussion concerning a successor to the current Dean (27 June 1979, 3pp).
- Reporting a very successful meeting with Mr Sean White with a view to his appointment as the new Dean in August 1980 (19 November 1979).
- Outlining a long discussion on the subject of retirement pensions for staff of the School (20 February 1980, 3pp).
- Copy of a letter from P. Kilroy, Chairman of the Executive Committee, School of Irish Studies, Prior House, Merrion Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 to Sean White, 28 Grosvenor Place, Dublin 6 confirming his appointment as Dean of the School of Irish Studies and outlining the terms and conditions of his employment (19 February 1980, 3pp).
- Decision to re-constitute the Academic Advisory Council of the School and the appointment of members (4 June 1980, 2pp).
- Reporting on Senator Justin Keating's agreement to join the

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- Board of Governors of the School (18 September 1980, 4pp).
- Outline of the new Dean's report on the School, clarifying certain areas and raising concerns over the School's financial position. (18 September 1980, 4pp).
- Report by Dean White on his visit to the USA in an effort to recruit more students for the School. Also reports on demands for certain types of courses/subject areas (26 November 1980, 3pp).
- Reporting on a lengthy discussion concerning forward planning and fund-raising for the School. It was suggested during the discussion that a meeting with the RDS should be set up to explore the possibility of a formal association between the two parties (24 February 1981, 3pp).
- Proposal that Ms Mary New be appointed as Registrar in view of her duties at administrative and academic levels (27 May 1981, 2pp).
- Proposal that Dean White's appointment should be made permanent and a contract drawn up (7 October 1981).
- Further details concerning discussions with the RDS and Professor Meenan (7 October 1981).
- Report by Justin Keating concerning plans for expansion of the student intake from Scandinavia, France and possibly Belgium (18 November 1981, 3pp).
- Discussion concerning the School's recognition by the Department of Education (18 November 1981, 3pp).
- Report on positive discussions with the NCEA (National Council for Educational Awards) (24 February 1982).
- Discussion of points raised at a recent meeting in Slane Castle and a plan of action for the School (15 September 1982, 5pp).
- Lengthy discussion concerning arrangements between the School and the RDS concerning a renewal of the School's lease for Prior House (10 November 1982, 4pp).
- Summary of an Academic Council meeting at which the proposal to widen the intake of students beyond America was discussed. Dean White remarked that while the proposal was not rejected by the Council '... there was a strong feeling that the idea needed careful discussion before any commitment to the idea.' Continues 'It appeared ... that in the opinion of the Academic Advisory Council, implementation of such a change in policy would not be as easy as the Board of Governors and Executive Committee appeared to think' (10 November 1982, 4pp).
- Discussion concerning the drop in student numbers due in part to the recession in the US and how the School could counteract this downward trend (16 February 1983, 3pp).
- Decision that, on a pilot basis, the School should seek to recruit students from outside the US (16 February 1983, 3pp).
- Lengthy discussion concerning arrangements with the RDS and the leasing of the School's premises from them. Refers to the RDS decision to waive the VAT exemption and the extra financial burden this would place on the School and the real possibility of the School having to look for new premises (11 May 1983, 3pp).
- Lengthy, detailed discussion concerning the crisis facing the

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School with regard to the lease of Thomas Prior House from the RDS (30 August 1983, 5pp).

- Report that negotiations with the RDS had been successful with no increase in rent for the School and no VAT charges. However it was also noted that the Thomas Prior House needed urgent attention due to dry rot in the fabric of the building. Agreement that the School should actively look for new premises regardless of the successful negotiations with the RDS (15 November 1983, 3pp).
- Special meeting of the Executive Committee to discuss the fund raising options open to School and to hear the advice of Mr George Diffley and Mr Malachy Glynn, professional consultants from the US, both of whom had extensive experience in the area of fund raising. Areas discussed included fund raising in the US, the image of the School, campaign strategy, the needs of the School in the future, the premises occupied by the School, and the long-term future of the School (29 March 1984, 6pp).
- Report of a semi-formal discussion with the RDS concerning the purchase of Thomas Prior House, the School's intention to explore ways of raising funds to do this, a favourable response from the RDS, and a requirement for the School to put forward more concrete proposals on the matter (14 May 1984, 5pp).
- Discussion at a joint meeting of the Board of Governors, the Executive Committee and the Finance Sub-Committee of the School of Irish Studies regarding the School's premises and the possible purchase of Thomas Prior House from the RDS (7 February 1985, 6pp).
- Lengthy discussion on a report from consultants engaged by the School to look into the School's profile in the US and the possibility of a fund-raising campaign in the US in support of the School (7 February 1985, 6pp).
- Report of the RDS' acceptance of the offer made by the School to purchase Thomas Prior House and a discussion about the implications of this for the School (22 May 1985, 5pp).
- Details of the contract of sale for Thomas Prior House and a summary of a lengthy discussion arising out of the consultant's report on fundraising in the US (11 September 1985).

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20 September 1985–24 May 1995

99pp

**Executive Committee minute book**

Includes:

- Reporting on the finalisation of the contract of sale between the School and the RDS for Thomas Prior House and a decision to write to all School Board members informing them of the successful outcome of the negotiations (20 September 1985, 3pp).
- Discussion of the final stages of the contract of sale between

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- the School and the RDS (23 October 1985, 3pp).
- Report by the Chairman and Dean White on a trip to the US for fund raising and development, and the urgent need to establish a Board of Regents in the US (26 November 1985, 5pp).
  - Decision, in view of the purchase of Thomas Prior House, that three new Advisory Committees be appointed to assist in the management of the School, namely a Finance Advisory Committee, a House Advisory Committee and a Policy Advisory Committee. Also decided to disband the existing Finance Sub-Committee and that the Board of Governors be requested to appoint the three new advisory committees under Articles 22 of the Articles of Association (11 January 1986, 2pp).
  - Discussion concerning the membership and roles of the three new Advisory Committees (12 February 1986, 4pp).
  - Details of bank arrangements with Ulster Bank including details of the overdraft facility for the School and resolutions passed by the Executive Committee concerning the School and Ulster Bank (10 December 1986, 2pp).
  - Resolution that a recommendation be made to the Board of Governors to appoint a special American Advisory Committee or Board of Regents to assist the Executive Committee and Board of Governors in student recruitment and policy development for the School (11 January 1986, 2pp).
  - Review of the School's fund-raising in the US (4 February 1986, 3pp).
  - Summary of the contact between the School and the Board of Regents in the US and the lack of meetings and therefore momentum raising real concerns about the finances of the School and the future of the School. Suggestion that immediate contact be made with Dr Patrick Masterson, President of UCD '...to discuss mutually beneficial inter-action and co-operation between the School of Irish Studies and UCD (9 September 1987, 3pp).
  - Discussion concerning the financial crisis facing the School and the options open to the School including the liquidation of the company and a realisation of assets to pay off creditors or the raising of a loan of \$200,000 guaranteed by the Regents. Agreement that a 'task force' should meet to consider the next step (30 September 1987, 3pp).
  - Points of action suggested by the recently appointed 'task force' on how the School could promote itself with a view to generating income (6 October 1987, 3pp).
  - Summary of developments regarding the financial position of the School including pledges of money by some members of the Board of Regents in the US and an agreement on how to proceed from here (17 November 1987, 3pp).
  - Reference to an offer for Thomas Prior House for £650,000 (20 April 1988, 2pp).
  - Announcement by the Chairman Professor Kevin B Nowlan that the Board of Governors had approved the sale of Thomas Prior House to Mr Bertram Allen and Mr Tom McParland (27 April 1988, 1p).
  - Report that the sale of Thomas Prior House has been

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completed and that an arrangement with the new owners allowed the School to remain in the premises, rent free, until the 31 December 1988 (21 September 1988, 3pp).

- Report from the Development Sub-Committee concerning the School's future and how it can meet current demands, and negotiations with TCD and UCD (21 September 1988, 3pp).
- Suggestion that Mr P.J. Daly would act as Irish Director, US Foundation, in place of Mr Kilroy who had resigned this position (21 September 1988, 3pp).
- Report on negotiations with TCD and UCD. Remarks that '...an affiliation with UCD was not a practical possibility and that further negotiations would be fruitless' (2 March 1989, 2pp).
- Update on negotiations with TCD from Dean White. Remarks '... while the atmosphere was favourable, the negotiations were still going very slowly and a final decision and arrangement could be a year away ... this was unsatisfactory from the School's point of view and did not satisfy the needs of its timetable' (21 April 1989, 3pp).
- Discussion concerning the immediate future of the School, in particular consideration of suspending the Fall semester 1989 (21 April 1989, 3pp).
- Response to a number of questions from Professor Gus Martin concerning the options now open to the School (21 April 1989, 3pp)
- Recommendation by the Executive Committee to the Board of Governors that the School of Irish Studies ' ... establish a scheme for the endowment of scholarships and/or research, either in conjunction with a university institution or on an independent basis, and ... that from time to time it endows and supports conferences, lectures and awards in the humanities in Ireland in a manner which is in accordance with the terms of the Memorandum and Articles of Association' (21 April 1989, 3pp).
- Meeting of the working party of the Executive Committee to discuss the resolutions passed at a recent AGM and to consider Professor Nowlan's 'Suggestions for a Working Paper' (11 July 1989, 2pp).
- Announcement of the suspension of the semester programme, the disposal of the library and fixtures and the vacation of Thomas Prior House. The meeting was held at 62 Dartmouth Square the home of the Chairman Kevin B Nowlan (5 October 1989, 2pp).
- Suggestion that a 'think-in' be held to consider a plan and a programme for the School (5 October 1989, 2pp).
- Summary of the principle points raised at the 'think-in' held in the Killiney Court Hotel, and a summary of areas worth exploring for the future activities of the School (18 November 1989, 3pp).
- Meeting of the Executive Committee and a number of advisers including Patrick Kilroy, Rosemarie Mulcahy, Professor Augustine Martin, Professor Maurice Sheehy and Seán White to discuss the future activities of the School following the suspension of teaching activities and how it could promote other objectives laid down in the Articles of Association e.g. the

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promotion of Irish culture through support for scholarly research, co-operation, travel and publication (17 February 1990, 4pp).

- Recommendation of grants to be awarded to successful applicants (20 July 1990, 3pp).
- Decision to reduce the number of members serving on the Board of Governors (20 July 1990, 3pp).
- Decision to extend the membership of the Executive Committee and the co-option of Dr Rosemarie Mulcahy and Mr Arthur Gibney to the Committee (5 February 1991, 2pp).
- Discussion of a draft leaflet describing the School of Irish Studies Foundation Awards (12 March 1991, 2pp).
- Discussion concerning the School's investment plans and advice from an investment consultant (12 March 1991, 2pp).
- List of successful grant applications including the name of the applicant and the amount awarded (14 November 1991, 2pp).
- Agreement that a message of sympathy to be sent to the widow of the later Professor Maurice Sheehy (14 November 1991, 2pp).
- List of recipients of the School's Foundation Awards and amount awarded (17 November 1992, 2pp).
- Final list of the recipients of the School of Irish Studies Awards for 1994 (6 July 1994, 2pp).
- Suggestion that a trip be made to Annaghmakerrig to present the 1993 award and a further discussion concerning the proposed scholarship (6 July 1994, 2pp).
- Report of the arrangements to dissolve the Irish Foundation in the US (1 February 1995, 1p).
- Agreement that money from the School of Irish Studies would go towards the general funding of the Tyrone Guthrie Centre in Annaghmakerrig and that Dr Rosemarie Mulcahy would act as the School of Irish Studies' consultant (25 April 1995, 1p).
- List of the recipients of the 1995 School of Irish Studies Awards (24 May 1995, 2pp).

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17 February 1986–28 November 2002

57pp

**Executive Committee minute book**

The first fourteen pages of this final volume of the minutes of the Executive Committee record the minutes of the House Committee from February 1986 to January 1987. This period marked an important episode in the history of the School of Irish Studies coinciding with the immediate aftermath of the purchase of Thomas Prior House from the RDS and the important and necessary renovation work carried out.

Includes:

- Presentation by architects McCullough and Mulvin concerning the renovation work to be carried out on Thomas Prior House. Discussion regarding the tenancy of the Dublin Grand Opera Society and agreement that a maximum of a two year lease for

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- all tenants be offered (17 February 1986, 2pp).
- Discussion concerning the tenders received for the building work (12 March 1986, 3pp).
- Agreement, in principal, between the School and Bord Fáilte to provide £40,000 for refurbishment and restoration work to the board room of Thomas Prior House (23 April 1986 2pp).
- Records the death of Seán White, former Dean of the School of Irish Studies and an undertaking by the Chairman to write to Seán White's widow Mary Lavin. Agreement that Rosemarie Mulcahy take over the duties of Secretary of the School (20 September 1996, 1p).
- Agreement that a form of words be prepared for the use by recipients of SIS funding as an acknowledgement. Proposal that an award be established in memory of Seán White the late Dean of the School (12 December 1996, 2pp).
- Discussion concerning the re-organisation of the working of the School of Irish Studies in an effort to reduce costs. Decision that the School would have three major 'clients' for the following year, namely Annaghmakerrig, Marsh's Library and one other, possibly the Royal Irish Academy Dictionary of Irish Biography. Also suggested that an application for funding for a conference on the Grand Tour may be appropriate for the first Seán White Award (22 January 1997, 1p).
- Report by Joe McCullough that the Foundation's funds stood at £30,000, leaving enough for awards over the next three years and, if the Foundation was to continue, a new source of funding would have to be found. Agreement that Kevin B. Nowlan would draft a short history of the School and that contact would be made with the Ireland Fund and Mrs Loretta Glucksman. Also agreed that Patrick Kilroy be asked to advise about tax exemption and possible sources of funding (20 December 1999, 1p).
- Report by Patrick Kilroy that gifts of money to SIS valued at between £350-£1,000 would be tax deductible but agreement that the School did not wish to get involved in fundraising and preferred to find a 'major sponsor' (20 January 2000, 1p).
- Report by Joe McCullough that it was unlikely that the Ireland Fund would be a source of funding for the School, that the remaining fund was £28,874 and that a major donor would be required if the Foundation was to continue (10 May 2000, 2pp).
- Report by Joe McCullough that the finances were now very low and that the Foundation would have to wind up its activities unless another source could be found (12 April 2001, 1p).
- Discussion concerning the failure to find an alternative source of funding for the continuance of the School of Irish Studies and that an application to the Ireland Fund had not been successful (19 November 2002, 1p).
- Wording of an ordinary resolution to be put before an Extraordinary General Meeting to cease operations and to raise no further funds and that an application be made to the Registrar of Companies to have the Company (School of Irish Studies) struck off (22 October 2002, 1p).
- Extraordinary General Meeting at which it was unanimously

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agreed that an application be made to the Registrar of Companies to have the Company struck off. Acknowledgement of the work of the School of Irish Studies for over a decade and the valuable financial assistance given to many projects. Discussion concerning the donation of the School's records to the Archives Department, UCD and a suggestion that the Writer's Museum would also be a suitable repository for the School's records. Undertaking to contact Mary New, Teresa Nowlan and Mary White (widow of Seán White, former Dean) for records they may have (19 November 2002, 2pp).

- Final meeting of the Executive Committee concerning the winding up of the Company of the School of Irish Studies (28 November 2002, 1p)

**P193/51**

1974-95

119pp

### **Reports**

File of reports submitted by the Executive Committee of the School of Irish Studies to the Board of Governors. The reports provide a summary of the activities of the Executive Committee and were submitted in advance of the AGM of the Board of Governors. Topics reported on include finance, student numbers, future developments, fund raising, the activities of the Dean and Registrar, the School's premises, Academic Advisory Council, contacts with the USA, and income tax.

Includes:

- First report by the Executive Committee of its activities since its formation at the first official meeting of the Board of Governors on 4 November 1974 (February 1976, 3pp).
- Refers to the appointment of an Academic Advisory Council and the role of the Council in the School (10 February 1977, 5pp).
- Reports on the Dean's first visit to the West Coast of America and the importance of this visit in promoting the School to the American colleges. Refers to the new UCD Irish Studies Programme and the potential impact this may have on the School of Irish Studies ([1978], 6pp).
- Refers to the visit of the Dean to the southern states of America to promote the School. Announces the receipt of one scholarship from Bord Fáilte worth £250. Refers to the co-option of Mr P.J. Daly, Director Europe, IDA to the Executive Committee (1979, 3pp).
- Refers to the retirement of Dean Scott and the appointment of his successor, Mr Sean J. White (1980, 3pp).
- Refers to the development of student recruitment for the School beyond the USA focusing on Europe and further afield (1982, 4pp).
- Reports on the disappointing negotiations with the RDS concerning the increase in rent and the reduction in the leasehold. Refers to the financial difficulties of the RDS

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- resulting in challenging negotiations (1983, 4pp).
- Refers to the on-going negotiations with the RDS and the rent paid by the School for the premises, Thomas Prior House. Remarks that the negotiations included a discussion about the School purchasing Thomas Prior House (1984, 5pp).
  - Reports on the agreement by the RDS to sell Thomas Prior House to the School of Irish Studies for the sum of £350,000. Refers to the consultancy work carried out by Mr Glynn and Mr Diffley on behalf of the School exploring the possibility of raising funds in the USA (1985, 4pp).
  - Report of a 'prolonged but quite friendly' negotiation with the RDS and an agreement by the RDS to sell Thomas Prior House to the School for the sum of £350,000 and also their agreement to accept payment on a phased basis (1985, 5pp).
  - Summary of achievements during the year including the successful purchase of Thomas Prior House from the RDS, the establishment of a new advisory committee, the incorporation of an Irish Studies Foundation in the US including tax free status and the successful establishment of a US advisory committee to assist in fund raising (16 June 1986, 5pp).
  - Report on the renovation work carried out on Thomas Prior House to remedy serious dry and wet rot in the fabric of the building and the completion of a Visitor's Suite. The funding for this work included a subvention from Bord Fáilte Ireland with a view to using the Suite for the entertainment of important foreign business and professional guests. Remarks that generous donations of chandeliers from Waterford Glass and carpets from Munster Carpets were received and that the Arts Council had loaned the School contemporary works of art. Also reports on the transformation of the US Advisory Committee into a Board of Regents. John J. Conheeney was appointed as Chairman and Thomas J. Sullivan as President (10 July 1987, 5pp).
  - Summary report on discussions and actions undertaken by the Executive Committee due to serious concerns about the School's financial position, the future of the School and the various options open to the School (9 September–12 October 1987, 2pp).
  - Detailed report on the severe financial crisis faced by the School. Outlines the reasons for this crisis including the renovation and interest costs incurred by the School's premises, Thomas Prior House, the decline in student numbers and the lack of funds which had been expected from the US. Details the options that were considered by the Executive Committee and how these were explored. Outlines the recommendations of the Executive Committee including the cancellation of the semester programme, the implementation of a redundancy programme based on the UCD scale, the implementation of a funded pension scheme and the establishment of a scheme for the endowment of scholarships and/or research and publication (1989, 6pp).
  - Report on the process of suspending the semester programme, the future plans for the School including a summary of projects to be assisted out of current resources and a report of

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- a very successful alumni reunion (1990, 3pp).
- Outline of the successful recipients of the School of Irish Studies Foundation Awards and a recommendation for future awards and an investment policy to maximise the remaining money for dispersal over the next five years (1991, 3pp).
- Report on the School of Irish Studies Foundation Awards granted in 1992 and 1993 and a list of the recipients (1993, 3pp).
- Report on the School of Irish Studies Foundation Awards granted in 1994 and a list of the recipients. Also reports the dissolution of the Irish Studies Foundation in the US and expresses gratitude to Mr Tom O'Sullivan for the assistance given to the School in this matter (1994, 2pp).
- Report on the School of Irish Studies Foundation Awards granted in 1995 and a list of the recipients. Also confirmation from Mr Brian O'Connor, whose opinion was sought on a formal basis, that the Executive Committee was the Board of Directors and that the Board of Governors were members of the Company. Reports that the accumulated reserves brought forward to the end of the year amounted to £93,143 (1995, 3pp).

**P193/52** 16 February 1982–28 November 1996

57pp

**Agendas of meetings and lists of members of the Executive Committee**

Includes:

- Agendas for the meetings held by the Executive Committee at the School of Irish Studies and subsequently at the house of the Chairman Kevin B. Nowlan, 62 Dartmouth Square (16 February 1982–28 November 1996, 52pp).
- Lists of members, together with their contact details, of the Executive Committee of the School of Irish Studies (1985–6, 1990, 4pp).
- List of members of the various sub-committees including Finance and Development, Policy, House, US Advisory. The Chairman of the School, Mr Patrick Kilroy and Dean Seán White, were ex officio members of all committees (not dated, 1p).

**P193/53** 28 February 1983–15 February 1991

42pp

**General Correspondence**

Includes:

- Copy of a covering letter from Robert F. Kane, US Ambassador to Patrick Kilroy, Chairman, School of Irish Studies enclosing a

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letter from Barry J. Carroll of the American Irish Foundation concerning the School's difficulties in securing funds in America. Suggests that the School of Irish Studies extend an invitation to the AIF Directors during their visit to Dublin to visit the School's premises (8, 16 May 1985, 2pp).

- Copy of a letter from Malachy M. Glynn to Sean J. White, Dean, School of Irish Studies, discussing arrangements between his company and the School to carry out a campaign in America to raise funds for the School (9 September 1985, 3pp).
- Letter from Sean White, Dean, School of Irish Studies to Joseph McCullough concerning the arrangements for an Executive Committee meeting. Remarks that John Conheeny has been suggested as someone who would be suitable to act as chairman of an Advisory Committee (23 January 1986, 1p).
- Copy of a letter from John J. Conheeny, Chairman of the Board of Regents of the School of Irish Studies, to Sean White, Dean resigning from his position for personal reasons and suggesting that Tom Sullivan would be a suitable replacement (28 January 1987, 1p).
- Letter from Tom Sullivan, Chairman of the Board of Regents of the School of Irish Studies to Sean White, Dean acknowledging the enjoyable visit to Ireland and the hospitality he received. Refers to Thomas Prior House and expresses his regret that the premises had to be sold before he and other members of the Board had the opportunity to visit them (11 August 1989, 2pp).
- Reply referring to Sullivan's comments about Thomas Prior House. Remarks 'You mention that if you and others had seen it more could have been done to save it—but don't forget that many regents did see it ... However, that is water under the bridge and we move on ...' (30 August 1989, 1p).
- Note from Andrea Iseminger, Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, USA to Seán White and Mary New thanking the staff of the School for their assistance with students from Carleton over the years and the deep regret the college feels following the end of the semester programme. Remarks 'I remember talking with returning students from SIS ... in comparison with others who had participated in study around the world ... they were the most satisfied group. Everything about SIS had pleased them beyond their expectations.' (28 December 1989, 1p).
- Letter from Rosemarie Mulcahy, 52 Leeson Park, Dublin 6 to Sean White, Dean expressing her 'great pleasure' in joining the Executive Committee of the School of Irish Studies (15 February 1991, 1p).

**P193/54** 22 November 1984–15 March 1990

29pp

**Memoranda**

File of memoranda and notes compiled following a telephone conversation or meeting.

Includes:

- Summary of a telephone call with Justin Keating who spoke about his new position with the NCEA (National Council for Educational Awards) and approaches the School might make to the NCEA. During the course of the call Keating enquired about Thomas Prior House and the School's interest in the property (22 November 1984, 1p).
- Note by Dean White on the fundraising targets that the School requires and the options available to the School to raise the required amount. Includes appendices outlining the sums of money involved (20 September 1985, 6pp).
- Summary of a meeting with Mr Malachy Glynn, a consultant employed by the School to advise on raising funds for the School in the USA. Refers to the Executive Committee's reaction to the very high expenses incurred and that the committee could not commit themselves to this level of expenditure. Outlines Mr Glynn's reaction describing it as 'impassioned' and urging the Board to 'commit' themselves to a fundraising campaign and to consider a high profile individual to act in a 'leadership' role to promote the interests of the School (3 January 1986, 2pp).
- Outline of two telephone calls with Mr Malachy Glynn providing an update to the fund raising campaign in the USA (10, 12 January 1986, 2pp).
- Briefing provided to Professor Nowlan in advance of the Executive meeting concerning the grave financial situation facing the School. Reports on the very disappointing situation in the USA and the further postponement of a meeting of the Board of Regents. Summary of the points raised and decision taken to examine the various options outlined, including the sale of Thomas Prior House (8 September 1987, 3pp).
- Summary of a telephone conversation between Dean Seán White and Tom Sullivan, Chairman of the Board of Regents concerning the critical situation facing the School (8 September 1987, 1p).
- Summary of a telephone call between Dean Seán White and Michael McNulty, Director of Bord Fáilte concerning the letting of offices in Thomas Prior House to Bord Fáilte for the Irish American Cultural Institute (9 September 1987, 1p).
- Outline of a meeting between Ulster Bank and Dean White and Gabriel Hogan of the School of Irish Studies to discuss the School's finances (17 December 1987, 2pp).
- Meeting between Dr Andrew Carpenter, Dean, Faculty of Arts, UCD and Professor Donal McCartney, Director of the UCD Winter Semester in Irish Studies, and Dean Seán White, School of Irish Studies to explore the possibility '... of mutual interest and advantages between the UCD Winter Semester

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- and the School of Irish Studies.’ (29 February 1988, 2pp).
- Memorandum on the future of the School of Irish Studies written by Kevin B. Nowlan in response to the financial crisis faced by the School and the options available to the School (7 October 1988, 3pp).
  - Summary of a meeting held at the Registrar’s office UCD between the Registrar, Professor John Kelly, Dr Andrew Carpenter, Dean of Arts, Professor Donal McCartney, Semester Abroad, Mr Tony Bennett, Bursar, Professor Kevin B. Nowlan, Professor Augustine Martin and Dean Seán White concerning the memorandum prepared by Kevin B. Nowlan on the future of the School of Irish Studies and the possibility of forming an association with one of the university bodies (20 October 1988, 2pp).
  - Details of a telephone conversation with a *Sunday Press* journalist William Roche enquiring about the cancellation of the semester at the School of Irish Studies. Outlines the response given to the questions (10 May 1989, 1p).

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8 December 1985–11 January 1986

35pp

**‘Discussion Day’**

Correspondence, notes, presentations, and minutes arising from a meeting held in the Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel, Killiney to discuss the School of Irish Studies (SIS).

Includes:

- Contribution by Augustine Martin suggesting that the SIS could become a study centre focusing on international issues, in particular peace and justice (6 January 1986, 1p).
- Holograph and typescript notes of a contribution by Jim Mays under the headings of ‘Students’, ‘Courses we offer’ and ‘Staff’. Concludes that SIS should proceed with caution to ‘improve and enlarge’ rather than ‘replace or change direction’ (11 January 1986, 3pp).
- Contribution by Ronan Fanning indicating his support for the present structure of SIS. Remarks that he would not encourage the introduction of European students to the programme. Expresses his support for a post graduate programme and cautious support for the development of an American centre at Thomas Prior House (January 1986, 1p).
- Memorandum by Kevin B. Nowlan concerning the creation of a centre for American and Irish Studies at Thomas Prior House (8 January 1986, 2pp).
- Detailed memorandum by Sean White, Dean concerning a suitable role model for the development of a centre for American and Irish Studies. Suggests that the Salzburg Seminar in American Studies developed by Harvard University in the 1940s could provide a useful model. Provides a summary of the model (8 January 1986, 3pp).
- Minutes of the discussion day. Provides a detailed summary of

**P193/55** the points discussed during the day-long meeting (11 January 1986, 6pp).

**P193/56** 1 October 1987–6 December 1988

12pp

**Task Force**

Minutes and statement of projected expenditure.

Includes:

- Notes suggesting the formation of a centre for American-Irish Cultural Exchange. Outlines how the School might operate under this scheme, using its past experience to develop the venture ([1987], 2pp).
- Minutes of the first meeting of the 'Task Force' focusing on areas of possible income-generating activities for the School. Discussion included a possible association between the School and either UCD or TCD, the concept of a 'Finishing School', and educational tourism (1 October 1987, 3pp).
- Minutes of a second meeting of the 'Task Force' discussing the concept of a 'Finishing School' in more depth (2 October 1987, 1p).
- Projected expenditure in running a 'Finishing School' ([2 October 1987], 3pp).
- Further meeting of the 'Task Force' discussing the situation facing the School with regard to it remaining in Thomas Prior House until May 1989, the shortfall in funds due to low numbers enrolled in the Spring semester, the urgency in getting a response following discussions with UCD and TCD and the new arrangements for the US Foundation and the Board of Regents. Following a suggestion by Joseph McCullough it was agreed that the Finance Sub-Committee be disbanded (6 December 1988, 3pp).

**P193/57** 10 September 1987–12 December 1988

49pp

**Negotiations with UCD**

Memoranda of meetings and correspondence relating to discussions exploring the possibility of mutual interest between UCD and the School of Irish Studies in study abroad.

Includes:

- Letter from Donal McCartney, Semester in Irish Studies, Newman House, 86 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 to Seán White, School of Irish Studies, Thomas Prior House, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 reacting to a draft of a memorandum written by Seán White following a meeting. Remarks that he is reluctant to agree to the impression that the memorandum is a 'joint communique'. Remarks 'I suggest, instead, that it be

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headed: "Draft proposals by Seán White following a meeting between..." This would be more in keeping with my request that you would make proposals to us which could be further investigated' (1 February 1988, 1p).

- Copy of a letter from Seán White to Gabriel Hogan, Sandymount Green, Dublin 4 referring to recent communications with Donal McCartney. Remarks 'You will guess from the tone of my recent reply to McCartney that I think he is trying to set up some kind of diversion' (5 February 1988, 1p).
- Memorandum written by Seán White of a meeting between Dr Andrew Carpenter, Dean, Faculty of Arts, UCD and Professor Donal McCartney, Director of the UCD Winter Semester, and Dean Seán White, School of Irish Studies summarising the discussion exploring areas of common ground between UCD Winter Semester and the School of Irish Studies. Remarks 'Dean Carpenter who did most of the talking (Professor McCartney said very little apart from again emphasising the quality of the Winter Semester programme and its advantages for UCD Junior Year Abroad Programme) responded to the points I made by using the analogy of Big Brother and Little Brother. Big Brother (UCD) was expanding its own programme and did not see what Little Brother (School of Irish Studies) had to offer to it. He admitted we had a respectable programme but he could not see what we had to offer UCD. Their goal was for only 50 students in toto over all departments in arts, he felt they could achieve this easily themselves. All, in fact, he said, we seem to be offering was a brochure. I again summarised the advantages but did not seem to catch his interest in any way and at this point I broke off the discussion ...' (29 February 1988, 2pp).
- Two copies of a confidential memorandum written by Seán White, one copy annotated, following a meeting with Dean Andrew Carpenter, UCD. Refers to the introduction of Carysfort staff to UCD and the willingness by the Arts faculty to entertain the idea of collaborating with agencies outside the university. Remarks that he and Dean Carpenter outlined what each would expect to offer and gain by a closer association between UCD and the School of Irish Studies. Concludes by describing the meeting as 'amiable and cooperative and totally different from the last meeting, for which he apologised ...' (11 October 1988, 4pp).
- Letter and copy of a letter, annotated, from John Kelly, registrar, UCD to Dean Seán White concerning the on-going discussions between UCD and the School of Irish Studies outlining two possible options, from UCD's point of view, of how a closer association/collaboration could work. (5 December 1988, 4pp).

**P193/58** 20 May 1988–18 April 1989

73pp

**Negotiations with TCD**

Memoranda of meetings and correspondence relating to discussions exploring the possibility of mutual interest between TCD and the School of Irish Studies.

Includes:

- Memorandum by Seán White prepared following a meeting with Dr James Mason, Dean of Overseas Visiting Students to Trinity College Dublin. Summarises the main points of the meeting which was based on a written proposal by Seán White. Remarks that Dr Mason was positive about the document ‘...while he was not going to be hurried into an immediate decision was generally in favour of what we had to offer and saw good possibilities for a closer association (1 June 1988, 2pp).
- Memorandum by Seán White describing a further meeting with Dr James Mason. Remarks that he explained the urgency on behalf of the School of Irish Studies about progressing the negotiations (9 December 1988, 2pp).
- Copy of the proposal prepared by the School of Irish Studies outlining the areas of mutual benefit and interest for TCD and the School of Irish Studies as well as points on how a collaboration between the School and the University would work in practice ([December] 1988, 5pp).
- Annotated copy, by James Mason, of the above proposal ([December] 1988, 6pp).
- Memorandum prepared by Seán White summarising a meeting with Professor Thomas Mitchell, Senior Lecturer, TCD relating to on-going discussions with Trinity. Remarks that Professor Mitchell introduced the possibility of collaboration with the Access programme whose structure, he felt, would suit the School of Irish Studies. Remarks that Professor Mitchell agreed to raise the matter with the Bursar and Provost and report back (2 December 1988, 1p).
- Memorandum written by Seán White of a telephone conversation with Professor Thomas Mitchell, Senior Lecturer concerning up-to-date information about the Access programme and their intention to negotiate with Carysfort for space. Remarks that he indicated the School’s interest and also spoke to Dr James Mason who again indicated that he questioned the suitability of the Access programme for the School but agreed that the Carysfort premises sounded good (25 January 1989, 1p).
- Further memorandum of a telephone conversation with Professor Mitchell raising a number of difficulties including student numbers, library facilities, the unlikely scenario of Carysfort becoming available. Remarks ‘I again repeated our time needs ... as regards premises and promotion ...’ (8 February 1989, 1p).
- Memorandum prepared by Seán White summarising a meeting with Professor Louis Cullen, Trinity College Dublin in order to

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move the negotiations along. Refers to Professor Cullen's remarks about the poor treatment received by the School during the negotiations with the university. Outlines Professor Cullen's reservations about the School of Irish Studies. Concludes by remarking that Professor Cullen appeared supportive overall and that arrangements to see the Provost should be made to engage his interest in the proposal (9 March 1989, 2pp).

- Memorandum prepared by Seán White summarising a meeting with Professor Thomas Mitchell, Senior Lecturer responding to a number of queries about how the association between the School and TCD might work in terms of the Board of the School relating to management in Trinity and how income generated by the School would benefit Trinity. Remarks that a large part of the discussion was taken up with compensation for teachers and how departments would benefit, the integration of terms with semesters, and premises (18 April 1989, 2pp).
- Note by Seán White briefly describing the current situation regarding negotiations with Trinity. Remarks that Professor Mitchell described the atmosphere as favourable but that negotiations were very slow and that final arrangements might be a year away (not dated, 1p).

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6 May 1988–18 November 1989

26pp

**School Sub-committee**

Statements, memoranda, notes, agendas and minutes concerning the development of the School following the sale of Thomas Prior House and the challenges faced by the School due to lack of funds.

Includes:

- Minutes from a meeting to discuss the purpose and relevance of the School following the sale of Thomas Prior House and the future viability of the School (6 May 1988, 2pp).
- Further meeting to discuss the options available to the School including the possibility of an association with Trinity College Dublin or University College Dublin (24 May 1988, 3pp).
- Statement outlining the history of the establishment of the School of Irish Studies (SIS), the aims and objectives of the School, the achievements of the School and its reputation and the future of the School ([1989], 2pp).
- Annotated draft and copy of a working paper by Joe McCullough on how SIS should re-orientate itself following the end of the semester programme. Refers to the sale of Thomas Prior House which has enabled the School to pay back loans, pay creditors and offer suitable redundancy payments to the staff as well as leaving a substantial surplus to start an endowment fund (21 July 1989, 4pp).
- Suggestions for a working paper by Kevin B. Nowlan

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concerning the future activity of the School. Refers to the Memorandum of Association outlining the School's original purpose and the scope of the School's activities and how this could be interpreted for future development. Summarises his opinion on the areas of activity that would be attractive for the School and reflect its original mission statement. Concludes by outlining the administrative needs of the School and the importance of keeping costs to a minimum (July 1989, 3pp).

- Working paper by Seán White, Dean, on how he sees the future of the School. Refers to the dramatic decision to suspend the semester programme due to financial considerations and the increasing competition from similar programmes operated by other institutions. Summarises the suggestions made by Kevin B. Nowlan and Joe McCullough in their working papers. Asks if the new role of the School would necessitate a restructuring of the Executive Committee and suggests that a meeting should take place to formulate a plan and an agreed programme of activity. Also suggests that serious consideration should be given to the finances of the School to ensure that the best possible use is made of the funds and investments as well as a concentrated effort to generate more income for the School (October 1989, 3pp).
- Notes and minutes concerning a meeting to develop a strategy for the future of the School of Irish Studies. Points discussed included the promotion of Irish culture through the School, particularly to an international audience, how to raise the necessary funds to do this and who should be targeted to sponsor this initiative. Further discussion involved the consideration of collaboration with the Irish-American Cultural Foundation and the need for sub-committees to drive this forward (October–November 1989, 6pp).

### **3.2 Board of Governors, 1974–95**

**P193/60** [1974–1984]

15pp

#### **Membership of the Board**

Biographical details of the members of the Board of Governors of the School of Irish Studies.

Includes:

- List of appointees and the date of their appointment to the Board (1974–82, 1p).

**P193/61** 17 September 1974–13 December 1995

25pp

**Meetings**

Agendas and notices mostly of Annual General Meetings of the Board of Governors.

Includes:

- Notice informing members of the Board of the retirement of Michael Scott as Dean of the School and the appointment of his successor Mr Seán White (14 April 1980, 1p).

**P193/62** 10 June 1974–13 December 1995

63pp

**Minutes**

Minutes mostly of Annual General Meetings of the Board of Governors.

Includes:

- Discussion concerning the decision by the School of Irish Studies to make a firm offer to Usitravel for the fixed assets, name and goodwill of the School. Provides a breakdown of the costs of the fixed assets and a discussion of what monetary value could be put on the goodwill of the School. Summary of a discussion concerning the amount needed as working capital and how this should be raised. Refers to the final draft of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and that the Department of Industry and Commerce had given unofficial approval (10 June 1974 2pp).
- Further discussion concerning the offer to Usitravel and recording the names of two new Board members. Refers to the signing of the Memorandum and Articles of Association (24 June 1974, 1p).
- Report on the progress registering the School with the Companies Office. Discussion regarding concerns expressed by Dr Maurice Sheehy in a letter to the Chairman, Dr Kevin Nowlan including the composition of the Board of Governors and an informal meeting of the Promoters of the School. Queries the validity of the decisions arrived at during the meeting and discussions concerning the Dean's salary while he or his wife (Mary Lavin) were present (7 October 1974, 3pp).
- Record of the change from a meeting of the Promoters of the School to a meeting of the Board of Governors. Refers also to the constitution of the Board and the withdrawal of two of the Promoters who wished to be free to teach at the School and, as a result, not eligible to serve on the Board. Discussion also relating to the composition of the Executive Committee and the term to be served by members (4 November 1974, 2pp).
- First AGM of the Board of Governors. Items for discussion included a change in the wording used in the Memorandum and Articles of Association in order for the School to apply for

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tax exemption, nominations to the Executive Committee, appointment of new members to the Board, the financial viability of the School, the School's premises, and the establishment of an academic committee (25 March 1976, 4pp).

- Decision to cancel the School's association with the American Institute for Foreign Study for the current year due to lack of demand, the situation with income tax liabilities of the School and how best to manage the School's status when presenting accounts, and the adoption of an amendment to the Memorandum of Association (1 April 1977, 4pp).
- Confirmation by Professor Kevin Nowlan of his decision to retire as Chairman of the Executive Committee and Board of Governors and proposing Patrick Kilroy as his replacement (16 May 1978, 3pp).
- Discussion concerning the School's income tax liabilities and the insistence by the School of its charitable status and the wisdom of taking an appeal to the Appeal Commissioner concerning this issue. Consideration was also given to increasing tuition fees for the spring semester (14 June 1979, 3pp).
- Discussion concerning the retirement of the current Dean Michael Scott, provisions for his pension and arrangements for him to act as a consultant to the Board with the title of Emeritus Dean. Formal welcome to Seán White as the incoming Dean (9 May 1980, 3pp).
- Remarks by Dean White indicating that it was not possible, due to constraints under the Articles of Association, to co-opt the retired Dean, Michael Scott, to the Executive Committee. Summary of forward planning and fund raising for the School. Suggestion by Senator Justin Keating that the School could consider the intake of European students and offering to use his contacts to secure scholarships from a number of European countries. Professor Mary Lavin urged caution remarking that the intake of European students may alter the character of the School (11 June 1980, 5pp).
- Refers to closer association between the School and the RDS, support for the continuing discussions with the NCEA and recognition of the School by the NCEA. Further discussion concerning contacts with Europe and general agreement that the enrolment of European students was a matter worth pursuing. Suggestions for new Board members (26 May 1982, 4pp).
- Discussion surrounding the escalating costs of promoting the School in the USA, the less than favourable exchange rate adding to the overall costs of travel and subsistence. Query regarding the cost of promoting the School and the number of students these trips yielded. Detailed summary of negotiations with the RDS concerning the lease of Thomas Prior House and agreement that the Finance Committee be tasked with the job of assessing the availability of suitable premises for the School to purchase (9 June 1983, 4pp).
- Discussion concerning the purchase of Thomas Prior House from the RDS including consideration regarding financing the

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purchase. Refers to a US consultancy firm engaged to undertake a survey to ascertain if the School could attract funds within the US. Refers also to a discussion with officials from the RDS but that negotiations were at a very early stage (7 June 1984, 6pp).

- Discussion concerning the very successful year in terms of financial gain for the School, the purchase of Thomas Prior House and the building work required and general agreement that the School had obtained a very favourable purchase price for the premises from the RDS. Reference also to the progress in America and the potential to raise funds there in support of the School. Agreement by the US Ambassador to Ireland Mr Robert Kane and the Irish Ambassador to the US Mr Tadhg O'Sullivan to become patrons of the School. Report on the organisation of an alumni development programme (26 June 1985, 5pp).
- Matters relating to the sale of Thomas Prior House, the future role of the US Regents and the Irish Studies Foundation (21 July 1988, 3pp).
- Report on the recipients of the School of Irish Studies Awards, now in its fifth year, and the winding up of the Irish Studies Foundation in the US (1 March 1995, 2pp).
- Report on the recipients of the School of Irish Studies Awards. Expression of sympathy to the widow of the late Professor Augustine Martin and acknowledging the work he had carried out on behalf of the School since its inception (13 December 1995, 2pp).

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[1976]; 14 June 1979–28 August 1985

36pp

### **Special Meetings**

Report, minutes, and memoranda relating to meetings held in addition to the AGM of the Board to deal with specific events or issues relating to the School of Irish Studies as they arose.

Includes:

- Copy of an addendum to a draft report submitted by the Dean [to the Board of Governors] reviewing the commercial viability of the School and the external factors that may affect its success. Refers to the primary aim of the School as an educational establishment but points to a number of deficiencies in its organisation giving cause for concern. Offers suggestions on re-organisation and poses a number of questions about the future running of the School ([1976], 3pp).
- Minutes of a special meeting of the Board of Governors concerning the appointment of Seán White as Dean of the School of Irish Studies to replace Michael Scott (27 September 1979, 3pp).
- Detailed minutes of a special, full-day meeting of the Board of Governors held at Slane Castle. Includes a review of the current status of the School and the challenges facing the

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School with regard to premises, official recognition by the Department of Education and the National Council of Educational Awards (NCEA), the courses being run by the School and the expansion of the curriculum, the possibility of opening the School to students from Europe and the need to raise funds (3 July 1982, 12pp).

- Minutes of a joint meeting between the Board of Governors, the Executive Committee and the Finance Sub-Committee concerning negotiations with the RDS and the purchase of Thomas Prior House and a report by the consultant Malachy Glynn about fundraising in the USA (7 February 1985, 6pp).
- Memorandum of a meeting with Malachy Glynn concerning his involvement with the School and specifically his consultancy firm assisting the School with fundraising in the USA. The meeting was held in addition to the joint meeting of the Board of Governors, the Executive Committee and the Finance Sub-Committee to obtain further information (7 February [1985], 2pp).
- Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Governors recording in detail the discussion surrounding the purchase of Thomas Prior House from the RDS including contract negotiations, special conditions regarding the title, financing the purchase, and existing and potential tenants (28 August 1985, 7pp).

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5 July 1974–1 October 1985

88pp

**Correspondence**

File of correspondence received and sent by the Board relating to the School of Irish Studies concerning finance, student recruitment, development of the School, formation of the Board, and Thomas Prior House.

Includes:

- Copy of a letter from Finbarr Donovan Assistant General Manager, Allied Irish Banks Ltd to Professor Michael Mac Cormac, Faculty of Commerce, University College Dublin concerning arrangements for the transfer of the School of Irish Studies and confirming the agreed price, the end of AIB's and Usitravel's involvement with the School, the vacation of the bank's premises in Harcourt Street and arrangements for an overdraft facility (5 July 1974, 1p).
- Copy of a reply concerning the matters referred to in Finbarr Donovan's letter and an invitation for Mr Donovan to join the Board of the School (9 July 1974, 1p).
- Letter from Maurice P. Sheehy, University College Dublin to the Chairman of the Board of Governors, School of Irish Studies, expressing concerns over the composition of the Board of Governors. Remarks 'Contrary to the list of proposed names presented to me in June, the present membership of the incomplete Board no longer retains the element of impartiality and freedom from conflicting interests which is

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reflected in Clause 3 of the Memorandum of Association'. Refers also to a recent meeting referred to as a meeting of the Board of Governors as an invalid meeting based on Article 16 of the Articles of Association and that as a result none of the decisions taken at the meeting should be in any way binding on the Board of Governors (7 October 1974, 1p).

- Copy of a reply dealing with the concerns raised by Maurice Sheehy. Remarks that legal advice was obtained. Refers to the presence of paid lecturers on the Board and explains that this would give rise to a conflict of interest and that a choice was given to either give up paid employment in the School and remain on the Board, or to remain teaching and resign from the Board. Refers also to the presence of the Dean at meetings where his salary is discussed and remarks that provision was made for this in the Articles of Association. Refers also to the presence of Mary Lavin (the Dean's wife) during these discussions and explains that an agreement was reached allowing her to withdraw from the meeting if necessary. Finally refers to the composition of the meeting and remarks that until the Board has been formally constituted the decisions of the Promoters are legitimate and that the incoming Board may adopt any/all or reject any/all of the decisions arrived at by the Promoters (23 October 1974, 2pp).
- Copy of a letter from Kevin B. Nowlan, Chairman of the Board of Governors, School of Irish Studies to Professor James Meenan, RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 concerning the tenancy arrangements between the School and the RDS for Thomas Prior House. Enquires about a longer term lease for the use of the top floor of Thomas Prior House (4 February 1975, 2pp).
- Letter from Brian J. O'Connor, McCann Fitzgerald Roche and Dudley, Solicitors to Michael Scott, Dean, School of Irish Studies concerning the tax affairs of the School specifically income tax liability and charitable status (3 May 1977, 2pp).
- Letter from P.C. Kilroy, Director, Gowan Group Ltd, 69 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2 to Seán White, Dean, School of Irish Studies concerning the minutes of the AGM. Refers to three proposals raised at the meeting and indicates that they should be acted on quickly: possible association with the NCEA, closer alliance with the RDS and the possibility of including students from Europe in the School of Irish Studies (19 June 1981, 2pp).
- Letter from Peter Harbison, Bord Fáilte to Seán White, Dean, School of Irish Studies tendering his resignation from the Board of Governors (24 August 1981, 1p).
- Letter from M.J. MacCormac, Professor of Business Administration, Faculty of Commerce, Department of Business Administration, UCD to Sean White, Dean, School of Irish Studies tendering his resignation from the Board of Governors (25 May 1982, 1p).
- Copy of a reply accepting, with deep regret, Professor MacCormac's resignation from the Board (17 June 1982, 1p).
- Copy of a letter from Robert Burke, McCann Fitzgerald Roche and Dudley, Solicitors to Mary New, Registrar, School of Irish Studies concerning the payment of VAT and rent to the RDS in

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- respect of Thomas Prior House (8 June 1983, 2pp).
- Further letter from Peter Harbison, Bord Fáilte to Mary New, Registrar, School of Irish Studies tendering his resignation from the Academic Advisory Council (10 November 1983, 1p).
- Letter from Tom O'Connor, McCann Fitzgerald Roche and Dudley, Solicitors to Mary New, Registrar, School of Irish Studies outlining a suggested form of wording for the minutes relating to the lease of Thomas Prior House from the RDS, and the length and renewal of the lease (29 August 1985, 2pp).
- Copy of a memorandum written by P.C. Kilroy summarising a meeting with John McNally, Area Manager, Ulster Bank Ltd and enclosing information relating to the accounts, the history, and the future plans of the School. A covering letter from P.C. Kilroy to Mary New, Registrar, School of Irish Studies provides context for the enclosures (26 August 1985, 9pp).
- Copy of a letter from Seán White, Dean, School of Irish Studies to Professor Maurice Sheehy, Department of Palaeography and Late Latin, UCD relating to points raised by Professor Sheehy concerning the draft minutes of the Board of Governors informing him that the points raised by Professor Sheehy have been used to amend the draft minutes. Refers also to the representation of the School on the proposed Foundation of Irish Studies and the appointment of trustees (4 September 1985, 1p).
- Copy of a circular letter from Seán White, Dean, School of Irish Studies to Members of the Board summarising the main points of the negotiations between the School and the RDS concerning the purchase of Thomas Prior House (1 October 1985, 2pp).

### **3.3 Finance and Accounts, 1974–94**

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4 December 1984–14 February 1985

18pp

#### **Finance Committee**

Minutes of the Finance Committee. Initially set up as a sub-committee, the Finance Committee was disbanded in January 1986 and a new committee entitled the Finance and Development Committee was formed:

Includes:

- Summary of points raised at a meeting to discuss the relationship between the School and the RDS and Thomas Prior House. A series of actions was agreed with a view to furthering the negotiations for the purchase of Thomas Prior House from the RDS (4 December 1984, 2pp).
- Another meeting to report on the completion of the various actions agreed and the progress of negotiations with the RDS (18 December 1984, 3pp).
- Detailed minutes of a meeting of the Sub-Committee at which the US Consultant Malachy Glynn, employed to raise financial

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support for the School in the US, was also present. Includes a discussion on the responses to the interviews carried out by Malachy Glynn and the best approach to be taken in light of the response. The second half of the meeting concentrated on the continuing negotiations with the RDS and the urgent need for supporting funds from the US (5 February 1985, 7pp).

- Decision to open 'serious negotiations' with the RDS and the purchase of Thomas Prior House. General discussion on the necessary repair works, in particular the presence of dry rot, the method of payments to the RDS, the income that could be generated from the tenants and the development of the relationship between the School and the Consultants acting on behalf of the School in pursuing the raising of funds in the US. Agreement on the action that should be taken by Malachy Glynn and George Diffley and the legal formation of a Foundation in America. Agreement also that the patronage of Ambassador Kane should be actively encouraged. A word of caution by Mr McCullough refers to Messrs Glynn and Diffley and their success in realising funds remarking that he would be 'nervous of the School's dependence' on this income stream. Continues 'Mr McCullough felt that the Board should be more clear as to where the money is going to come from and should immediately start negotiations with an Irish bank to arrange an overdraft'. Concludes by recording a nine point action plan (14 February 1985, 6pp).

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19 February 1986–7 July 1988

35pp

**Finance and Development Committee**

Bound volume of minutes.

Includes:

- Terms and reference of the committee (19 February 1986, 4pp).
- Report on a visit to America by the Chairman of the committee Mr J. McCullough and the Dean Seán White (26 March 1988, 3pp).
- Report by the Chairman on meetings with the US Advisory Committee and with Malachy Glynn, US Consultant (13 October 1986, 2pp).
- Detailed discussion on the School's position regarding the forthcoming US Regents meeting and the general lack of satisfaction with the slow progress of the US consultancy firm in the campaign to raise funds for the School in America. Recommendation that the contract with the consultants is not renewed and that this is addressed at the Regent's meeting. Further discussion concerning the US Regents and ways in which they may be utilised in a more effective manner (17 November 1986, 4pp).
- Report on the financial position of the School and a letter received from the bank informing the School that the overdraft

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facility was to be reduced from £85,000 to £55,000 and the difficulties now facing the School in terms of cash flow. Discussion concerning the suspension of the Spring Semester, 1988 and acknowledgement that this would only serve to worsen the cash flow difficulty (4 November 1987, 2pp).

- Discussion concerning the cash flow difficulties for the School and the options, including the selling of Thomas Prior House, renegotiation of the loan from the bank, or liquidation. Confirmation that no money had been received from America despite repeated phone calls highlighting the financial situation (15 December 1987, 3pp).
- Agreement that 'drastic measures' were necessary to secure the financial position of the School and a decision to recommend to the Board of Governors that Thomas Prior House is placed on the market. Reference also to ongoing negotiations with the Registrar of UCD, John Kelly, concerning an association between that institution and the School of Irish Studies (11 January 1988, 2pp).
- Discussion concerning the sale of Thomas Prior House and the arrangements for putting it on the market (16 February 1988, 2pp).
- Information concerning the up-to-date financial position of the School and the expected funds available after the sale of Thomas Prior House. Discussion concerning the repayment of the Bord Fáilte grant and arrangements for the payment of the pension of the former Dean, Michael Scott. Agreement that further investigation be conducted concerning the recent call by the Chairman of the Irish Studies Foundation, Jack McCarthy III, for the resignation of Dr Tony Cahill and the two Irish trustees Patrick Kilroy and Joe McCullough with the aim of running the Foundation independently of the School (7 July 1988, 2pp).

**P193/67** 4 December 1984–7 July 1988

33pp

**Agendas, Draft Minutes**

Includes:

- List of members of the Finance and Development Committee (August 1987, 1p).

**P193/68** 23 January 1986–18 July 1991

40pp

**Correspondence**

Letters relating to the work of the Finance and Development Committee including membership, the auditing of the accounts, the School's premises Thomas Prior House and potential donors

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from America.

Includes:

- Copy of a letter from Patrick C. Kilroy, 69 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2 to Seán White, Dean, School of Irish Studies, Thomas Prior House, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 concerning the minutes of the Finance and Development Committee. Acknowledges the name change from the Finance Committee and the decision taken to do this at the meeting of 11 January 1986. Remarks that he is of the opinion that the terms of reference are too narrow and suggests an alternative wording (28 February 1986, 3pp).
- Copy of a letter from Maurice E. O'Boyle, Manager, Ulster Bank Ltd Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge to Seán White, Dean, School of Irish Studies concerning the finances of the School and a decision by the bank to reduce the overdraft available to the School (14 October 1987, 1p).
- Copy of a letter from Thomas J. Sullivan, Executive Vice President, Mc Graw-Hill Inc and Chairman of the US Board of Regents to James Guinan, The Landings, 14 Franklin Creek Road North, Savannah, GA explaining the serious financial trouble being faced by the School of Irish Studies. Asks if he is in a position to pledge money to the School (23 October 1987, 1p).
- Copy of a letter from Thomas J. Sullivan, Executive Vice President, Mc Graw-Hill Inc and Chairman of the US Board of Regents to Adrian Foley Jr., Connell, Foley and Geiser, 85 Livingston Avenue, Roseland NJ concerning the serious financial situation facing the School of Irish Studies. Summarises the events leading up to this. Remarks '... the School is at a crossroads. Before ever coming to the United States to launch the fund raising effort, they committed to the purchase and rehabilitation of the Thomas Prior House. Even with the advantage of hindsight, that was a good decision. They have an extremely valuable asset. However, they were overly optimistic about the amount of gold that they were going to be able to find in the United States ... Would you be willing to pledge any support?' (23 October 1987, 2pp).
- Letter and copy, annotated, from P.J. Maher, Consulting Actuary, 21 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2 to Dr Seán White, 28 Grosvenor Place, Dublin 6 offering investment advice for the financial sum remaining following the closure of the School (21 March 1991, 4pp).
- Letter from Charles Sweeney, Audit Manager, Ernst and Young, Chartered Accountants, Stephen Court, 18/21 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 to Seán White, School of Irish Studies offering investment advice for the financial sum remaining following the closure of the School (18 July 1991, 3pp).

**P193/69** 4 November 1987–17 February 1988

12pp

**Notes and Memoranda**

Mostly relating to the winding up of the semester programme and the disposal of Thomas Prior House.

Includes:

- Handwritten note concerning the financial crisis facing the School of Irish Studies. Refers to the bank holding off only if Thomas Prior House is put on the market and that the premises would be worth more to the School if sold by them rather than the bank through liquidation. Refers also to the reputation of the School. Remarks that the spring semester cannot be cancelled as there is no money to repay the fees and that in the event of liquidation fees would not be considered as one of the preferential creditors (not dated, 1p).
- Draft memorandum outlining the problems faced by the School of Irish Studies and some possible solutions (4 November 1987, 4pp).
- List of recommendations of the Finance and Development Committee (December 1987, 1p).
- Summary by Seán White of the recent financial difficulties of the School (December 1987, 2pp).
- Memorandum of a meeting with Ulster Bank, represented by Maurice E. O'Boyle, Manager of the Ulster Bank branch in Ballsbridge and Gabriel Hogan and Dean Seán White from the School of Irish Studies. A handwritten note on the memorandum states that a copy was not sent to the Executive Committee. Summarises the discussion relating to the finances of the School that took place and describes the meeting as 'amiable' (17 December 1987, 2pp).
- List of options open to the School contingent on the sale of Thomas Prior House (16 February 1988, 1p).
- Memorandum of a further meeting with Maurice E. O'Boyle and Gabriel Hogan and Dean Seán White regarding the decision of the Board of Governors to sell Thomas Prior House. Records Maurice O'Boyle's reaction, where he expressed his regret at the decision. Remarks that the bank manager undertook to recommend that an overdraft be made available in order to protect the School's liquidity (17 February 1988, 1p).

31 December 1974–31 December 1994

125pp

**Accounts**

Series of audited financial statements for the School of Irish Studies.

**P193/70** December 1974

3pp

**Statement of accounts**

**P193/71** 31 December 1975

3pp

**Statement of accounts**

**P193/72** 31 December 1976

4pp

**Statement of accounts**

**P193/73** 31 December 1977

5pp

**Statement of accounts**

Includes:

- Note concerning the incorporation of the company (the School of Irish Studies), its charitable status and exemption from Corporation Tax (31 December 1977, 1p).

**P193/74** 31 December 1978

5pp

**Statement of accounts**

**P193/75** 31 December 1979  
4pp  
**Statement of accounts**

**P193/76** 31 December 1980  
5pp  
**Statement of accounts**

**P193/77** 31 December 1981  
5pp  
**Statement of accounts**

**P193/78** 31 December 1982  
5pp  
**Statement of accounts**

**P193/79** 31 December 1983  
4pp  
**Statement of accounts**

**P193/80** 31 December 1986  
8pp  
**Statement of accounts**

**P193/81** 31 December 1987

13pp

**Statement of accounts**

Includes:

- Note placing the valuation of Thomas Prior House at £500,000 on 11 December 1987 (31 December 1987, 13pp).

**P193/82** 31 December 1989

13pp

**Statement of accounts**

Includes:

- Notes the proceeds from the disposal of the property Thomas Prior House in 1988 at £650,000 and the proceeds from the disposal of library books at £30,000 (31 December 1989, 13pp).

**P193/83** 31 December 1990

10pp

**Statement of accounts**

**P193/84** 31 December 1991

10pp

**Statement of accounts**

**P193/85** 31 December 1992

9pp

**Statement of accounts**

**P193/86** 31 December 1993

10pp

**Statement of accounts**

**P193/87** 31 December 1994

9pp

**Statement of accounts**

**4 THOMAS PRIOR HOUSE, 1977-90**

**P193/88** May 1973; 1977-83

37pp

**Lease**

Copies of leases, letter.

Includes:

- Copy of a letter from Robert Clinton, Masonic Benevolent Institution, 19 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2 to V.S. Smith, Registrar, Royal Dublin Society, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 informing him that items of interest to the Masonic Order were placed beneath the foundation stone of the Girls School (Thomas Prior House) on 25 June 1880 by the Duke of Abercorn. Asks that if the building is to be demolished that the items are returned to the Masonic Order and for his letter to be kept on file. Copy of a reply assuring Robert Clinton that his letter will be kept and that no demolition would take place without informing the trustees of the Order (22, 30 May 1873, 2pp).
- Copies of leases between the Landlord, the RDS, of Thomas Prior House, Ballsbridge and the Tenant, School of Irish Studies (1977-83, 35pp).

**P193/89** [22-30 May 1973]; 2 July 1981-28 July 1986

448pp

**Purchase of Thomas Prior House from RDS**

File of correspondence, notes, memoranda, reports, and copies of legal documents concerning the association between the RDS and the School of Irish Studies leading to the eventual purchase of Thomas Prior House from the RDS.

Includes:

- Letter from Professor James Meenan, President of the RDS, written from his home address, Albany House, Albany Avenue, Monkstown, County Dublin to Seán White, Dean, acknowledging the 'constructive evening' they spent and indicating that the proposals put forward by the School would be '...fully and fairly considered' (2 August 1981, 1p).
- Copy of a letter from Seán White to Professor James Meenan, asking for a further meeting to discuss how the association between the two organisations could be developed (17

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- November 1981, 1p).
- Copy of a letter from Seán White to Dr F.J. O'Reilly, Chairman, Executive Committee, RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 outlining how a closer association between the two organisations might be achieved including an endorsement from the Society for the School of Irish Studies, access to the Society's library and the negotiation of a longer lease of the School's premises, Thomas Prior House. Indicates also the advantages of a closer association for the Royal Dublin Society. Remarks 'I should stress that there is no request for any financial support in these proposals. The School is a charitable trust and pays for its activities out of tuition fees. All through its existence it has produced a modest financial surplus annually which is re-invested in library, school facilities and scholarship funds (20 April 1982, 2pp).
  - Letter from Gerard McAuliffe, Commercial Officer, RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 to Seán White concerning the new lease for Thomas Prior House. Refers to the increase in rent and the decision to offer tenancy on a one year basis (23 September 1982, 1p).
  - Copy of a reply from Seán White expressing his surprise at the tone and content of the letter (30 September 1982, 1p).
  - Copy of a letter from Seán White to Patrick J. Brennan, Room 220, Jurys Hotel, Dublin 2 asking for a meeting. Refers to the new tenancy arrangement being offered by the RDS to the School and the alarm he feels towards this development (28 September 1982, 1p).
  - Copy of a letter from Seán White to Dr F.J. O'Reilly, Chairman, Executive Committee, RDS, Dublin 4 remarking how '...very disturbed ...' he is about the new tenancy arrangements being offered by the RDS to the School of Irish Studies. Refers to the marked change in the terms and conditions, the increase in rent and that the decision was taken without any prior discussion remarking that it is '...contrary to the spirit in which we have been having our talks with your Society, and odd treatment both for good tenants and an organisation which I think could be of help to the Royal Dublin Society (30 September 1982, 1p).
  - Letter from A.J. Fitzgerald, Chief Officer, Executive Committee, RDS to Seán White responding to a number of queries. Remarks that the RDS do not consider it appropriate to endorse the School of Irish Studies, that the request for students enrolled in the School of Irish Studies be permitted to use the RDS library and other facilities is to be put before the General Purposes Committee and confirmation of a reduced rental charge but no change to the length of the lease (18 November 1982, 1p).
  - Copy of a memorandum of a meeting with Tony Fitzgerald, Chief Officer RDS confirming agreement that students in the School of Irish Studies could use the RDS library and attend events organised by the RDS. Remarks that no decision concerning the rent or lease of Thomas Prior House had been made 'Mr Fitzgerald pointed out that the RDS was asset rich but cash poor ... nevertheless their approach to us would be as

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- sympathetic as possible ...' (2 February 1983, 1p).
- Another memorandum relating to a telephone call with Tony Fitzgerald confirming the arrangements for the use of the RDS library and attendance at cultural events organised by the Society. Refers once again to the question of the lease and rent for Thomas Prior House (22 February 1983, 1p).
  - Letter from A.J. Fitzgerald to Seán White confirming the above and informing him that the matter of the School's tenancy was with the RDS' solicitors (22 February 1983, 1p).
  - Circular letter from Gerard McAuliffe, Commercial Officer, RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 to Seán White informing him that from 1 May 1983 the Society will be registered for VAT and that charges for rentals and services provided will include VAT (22 March 1983, 1p).
  - Copy of a reply from Mary New, Registrar informing Gerard McAuliffe that the School of Irish Studies are not liable for VAT on the rental paid to the RDS and asking him for confirmation of this (30 March 1983, 1p).
  - Reply informing Mary New that no mistake had been made and that VAT would be charged (31 March 1983, 1p).
  - Letter from A.J. Fitzgerald to Seán White informing him that the RDS is not prepared to move from their position of a one-year renewable lease and that the rent stands at £6 per square foot (29 March 1983, 1p).
  - Letter from A.J. Fitzgerald to Sean White informing him that they have received confirmation from their tax advisors that the School is not exempt from VAT on the rent payable to the RDS for Thomas Prior House. Stresses again the 'extremely difficult financial position' of the RDS (22 April 1983, 1p).
  - Copy of a newspaper cutting from the *Irish Independent* concerning the RDS and the 'deep financial trouble' it finds itself in following losses on many of the events and other activities it organises and hosts (14 August 1983, 1p).
  - Copy of a letter from Paddy Kilroy, Gowan Group Ltd, 69 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2 to Seán White informing him that the RDS have agreed a rental income of £18,000 inclusive of VAT, saving the School over £4000 for the coming year (7 October 1983, 1p).
  - Memorandum of a meeting between Patrick Martin, Chairman of the Development Sub-Committee, RDS, Mr Anthony Fitzgerald, Chief Executive, RDS and Mr Patrick Kilroy, School of Irish Studies. Outlines the detailed description of the School and its activities given to Mr Martin at the meeting and the desire of the School to find a long-term home. Remarks that the question was put to Mr Martin at the meeting whether the RDS was interested in selling Thomas Prior House to the School and asked would it be appropriate for the School to mention this proposal, in the strictest confidence, to their American advisors. Refers to the generally positive reaction and that Mr Martin indicated that the proposal would be considered 'sympathetically'. He also agreed that the School could inform its American Advisors. Remarks that Mr Martin advised it would be in the best interest of the School to get back in touch quickly with a set of proposals (30 April 1984,

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- 4pp).
- Letter from Eddie McCarron, Commercial Department, RDS to Seán White offering the same terms and conditions in respect of the tenancy agreement for Thomas Prior House and no increase in rent for the coming year (26 October 1984, 1p).
  - Timeline of the School's association with Thomas Prior House from the initial lease in 1974 to a proposal put forward by the School to purchase Thomas Prior House from the RDS in April 1984 and learning of the NCEA interest in acquiring the premises in November 1984 (July 1974–22 November 1984, 1p).
  - Memorandum of a telephone call from Justin Keating, recently appointed Chairman of the NCEA, to [Seán White], concerning the NCEA's interest in acquiring Thomas Prior House for use as their HQ. Remarks 'I explained in confidence the position to him and he said he would not want to interfere with our prior rights in the matter and would indicate that the building was not at present available'. Concludes 'Was this the motive for the call ...?' (22 November 1984, 1p).
  - Copy of a memorandum of a meeting with Tony Fitzgerald, Chief Executive, RDS. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain general information about Thomas Prior House and commitments with other tenants occupying Thomas Prior House including leases, the extent of the floor area occupied by the tenants, the rent per square foot being paid, and rates. Discussion also concerning the Thomas Prior House site (10 December 1984, 2pp).
  - Copy of a letter from F.J. O'Reilly, Chairman, Executive Committee, RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 to Patrick Kilroy, Chairman, Board of Governors, School of Irish Studies informing him that the offer made by the School to the RDS in respect of Thomas Prior House is 'within the parameters of our understanding'. Remarks that he would like to have a further meeting to discuss three main issues, planning permission, the dry rot situation and timing of payments. Accepts that the revised valuation is £350,000 (19 February 1985, 1p).
  - Copy of the minutes of a meeting between Dr Frank O'Reilly, Chairman of the Executive Committee, RDS and Tony Fitzgerald, Chief Executive, RDS, and Patrick Kilroy, Charles Kenny and Seán White of the School of Irish Studies to discuss the three issues raised in Dr O'Reilly's letter of 19 February 1985 (28 February 1985, 3pp).
  - Copy of a letter from F.J. O'Reilly, Chairman, Executive Committee, RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 to Patrick Kilroy, Chairman, Board of Governors, School of Irish Studies informing him that the Society would be prepared to accept the School's offer to purchase Thomas Prior House '... in its present condition with the existing tenancies and that phased payment of the consideration would be acceptable ... (and) ... subject to formal legal contract' (19 April 1985, 1p).
  - Timeline of the School's association with Thomas Prior House from the initial lease in 1974 to a proposal put forward by the School to purchase Thomas Prior House from the RDS in April 1984. Records the offer of £350,000 made by the School to the

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RDS for the purchase of Thomas Prior House in February 1985 and the acceptance of the offer by the RDS in April 1985 (July 1974–19 April 1985, 2pp).

- Letter from Tom O'Connor, McCann Fitzgerald Sutton Dudley, Solicitors, 30 Upper Pembroke Street, Dublin 2 reporting on the draft contract of sale received from the solicitors acting on behalf of the RDS. Asks for a meeting with the School of Irish Studies to discuss the report (13 August 1985, 3pp).
- Copy of a memorandum of a meeting at the RDS between Frank O'Reilly, Anthony Fitzgerald of the RDS and Charles Kenny and Patrick Kilroy of the School of Irish Studies to discuss the draft contract and the difficulties arising from the short term lease pending the closing of the sale on 1 March 1987. Refers to alternative methods discussed as well as the map indicating the extent of the site for sale, a pedestrian right of way, existing tenancies, fixtures and fittings and boundaries. Agreed that further discussion should take place between the solicitors acting for the RDS and the School of Irish Studies (21 August, 3pp).
- Copy of a letter from Patrick Kilroy, Chairman, Board of Governors, School of Irish Studies to J.J. McNally, Area Director, South Regional Office, Ulster Bank Ltd, 33 College Green, Dublin 2 concerning arrangements to make a facility available to the School to enable it to purchase Thomas Prior House. Refers to a loan from the bank and the terms including annual repayments. Refers to expected annual rental income. Raises the possibility of obtaining donations from the USA and the establishment of a fund-raising drive. Refers to evidence of dry rot in the building and how this is being dealt with. Remarks '... we intend to do a complete restoration job and to ensure that all such problems are dealt with. As I explained, this matter was taken into consideration on the negotiation of the highly favourable price' (30 August 1985, 3pp).
- Copy of a letter from F.J. O'Reilly, Chairman, Executive Committee, RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 to Patrick Kilroy, Chairman, Board of Governors, School of Irish Studies confirming that he will recommend the School's offer for outright purchase of Thomas Prior House for £325,000 to his colleagues on the Executive Committee and to the Council of the Society. Remarks 'Obviously this outright purchase will obviate the necessity for the leasing arrangement already proposed by the Society to cover the period of phased payment of the consideration money which will not now arise'. Continues that he will also recommend to the Society a price of £2,500 for certain fixtures and fittings. Refers also to the revised site being redrawn in consultation with the School's architects. Concludes that, subject to the satisfactory completion of the above points, the Society will issue a statement on or near the 17 October announcing that the Society has sold the property to the School of Irish Studies (18 September 1985, 1p).
- Copy of the Objections and Requisitions on Title in respect of Thomas Prior House prepared by the solicitors acting on behalf of the School of Irish Studies ([1985], 42pp).

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- Copy of a cheque for the sum of £325,000 made payable to Eugene F. Collins & Son, solicitors acting on behalf of the RDS for the purchase of Thomas Prior House. A note on the copy of the cheque remarks that it was delivered on 18 December 1985 (18 December 1985, 1p).

**P193/90** 30 January 1986–August 1987

32pp

**House Committee—Meetings**

Mostly agendas and minutes of the House Committee established to address the various structural and general maintenance issues following the purchase of Thomas Prior House by the School.

Includes:

- Summary of a presentation of a preliminary condition report prepared by the architects, Niall McCullough and Valerie Mulvin (17 February 1986, 2pp).
- Reference to dry rot as an ‘inherent problem’ in the fabric of Thomas Prior House (12 March 1986, 3pp).
- Report on discussions with Bord Fáilte and confirmation that they would be agreeable, in principle, to contributing up to £40,000 to fund some of the refurbishment work (23 April 1986, 2pp).
- Discussion concerning the architect’s brief for the Visitors Suite of Thomas Prior House (22 October 1986, 2pp).
- Discussion regarding the cash flow position and the current position concerning the short fall. Decision not to commit to work on the Visitor’s Suite until confirmation of the grant from Bord Fáilte was received. Lengthy discussion following an update by Dean White on the forthcoming Regents’ meeting. Refers also to the lack of progress by the consultants, Malachy Glynn and the consultancy company Brakeley John Price Jones Inc (17 November 1986, 4pp).
- Committee informed that Phase II of the building renovation had begun (27 January 1987, 3pp).
- Report on the completion of Phase II and the unlikelihood of any further work being carried out due to financial constraints (19 February 1987, 2pp).
- List of members of the House Committee (August 1987, 1p).

**P193/91** 4 February 1986–8 June 1987

94pp

**House Committee—Administration**

Correspondence, memoranda and reports mostly relating to the refurbishment of Thomas Prior House.

Includes:

- Preliminary report of an inspection carried out by Biotox

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Building Preservation concerning dry rot in Thomas Prior House (February 1985, 6–14 February 1986, 5pp).

- Preliminary structural report on Thomas Prior House carried out by O'Connor Kavanagh, Consulting Structural and Civil Engineers ([February 1986], 8pp).
- Copy of a preliminary condition report prepared by the School of Irish Studies' architects, Niall McCullough and Valerie Mulvin ([March] 1986, 15pp).
- Provisional schedule of payments for the building works to be carried out on Thomas Prior House and agenda of work to be carried out (23 April 1986, 9pp).
- Copy of a letter from Niall McCullough, Architect, 54A Upper Leeson Street, Dublin 4 to Dean Seán White strongly urging a commitment that the work to eradicate the dry rot be carried out to the end of phase 3 in the event of a shortage of funds. Remarks 'If treatment is not completed, we will be unable to get a guarantee on the work done from the company involved; if patches of rot remain, they may well grow again and set all of the work carried out at nought'. Includes a copy of a report on the progress of work to date (29 April 1986, 2pp).
- Copy of the architect's report for the development of a self-contained hospitality suite within the School ([19 February] 1987, 2pp).
- Copy of a progress report by the architects McCullough and Mulvin on the refurbishment of the hospitality suite. Refers to the work carried out and the discovery of a further outbreak of dry rot. Remarks that due to the 'rigorous requirement' not to exceed the budget of £50,000 they have not commissioned the painting of the staircase hall (28 April 1987, 2pp).
- Letter from Pat McCaffrey, Jones Lang Wootton, Surveyors and International Real Estate Consultants to Dean Seán White tendering his resignation from the committee. Remarks that he does not feel he is making a contribution to the work of the committee and that the position may be better filled by somebody else. Assures Dean White that he would be happy to contribute in the future (8 June 1987, 1p).

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11 October 1985–3 March 1989

132pp

**Sale**

Correspondence, notes, memoranda of meetings, reports, and copies of legal documents relating to the sale of Thomas Prior House, the premises of the School of Irish Studies.

Includes:

- Draft particulars and conditions of sale of Thomas Prior House. The document lists the vendor as the School of Irish Studies and the purchaser as Bertram Allen and Thomas McParland (21 October 1987, 6pp).
- Copy of a newspaper article by Kathleen A. McCormick detailing the history of Thomas Prior House, the former

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occupants and the architectural style of the building. Refers to the restoration work carried out by the School of Irish Studies (November 1987, 1p).

- Report and valuation by Allen & Townsend, Valuers, for Thomas Prior House. A valuation of £500,000, subject to the contents of the report, was given for the property (11 December 1987, 12pp).
- Copy of a newspaper article published in *The Sunday Tribune* reporting on plans by the RDS to sell the Simmonscourt site in order to preserve a presence by the Society in Ballsbridge. Refers to the operating losses of the RDS since 1976 (21 February 1988, 1p).
- Notes from a meeting between J. McCullough, G. Hogan, Dean Seán White and Mary New and Mr Bertie Allen and Tom McParland. Remarks that an offer of £650,000 was made by Bertie Allen and Tom McParland for Thomas Prior House and the intention was to develop the premises as an 'up-market hotel' (13 April 1988, 2pp).
- Letter from Donal T. McAuliffe & Company, Solicitors, 57 Merrion Square, Dublin 2 to Mary New, Registrar, School of Irish Studies confirming the offer of €650,000 to purchase Thomas Prior House by his clients Bertram Allen and Thomas McParland (14 April 1988, 1p).
- Copies of letters from Seán White to Peter Browne, Lisney and Son and Fergus Slattery, Allen and Townsend informing them that a private buyer for Thomas Prior House had made an offer which has been accepted by the Board of Governors. Thanks the two agencies for their assistance (17 May 1988, 2pp).
- Copy of a letter from Mary New, Registrar, School of Irish Studies to Donal McAuliffe, Solicitor, 57 Merrion Square confirming that she has contacted the three tenants in occupancy of Thomas Prior House, Irish Hereford Breed Society, Royal Horticultural Society and Country Markets and informed them that the new owners of Thomas Prior House, Springville Inns Limited will require vacant possession of the premises by 31 December 1988 and that the School of Irish Studies will be acting as caretakers of the building (22 August 1988, 1p).
- Summary of the building account for Thomas Prior House, the original cost of purchasing the premises by the School of Irish Studies, proceeds on disposal and the adjusted profit after the payment of the loan interest of £71,613 ([1988], 1p).
- Copy of a financial statement relating to the purchase, renovation and sale of Thomas Prior House ([1988], 1p).
- Copy detailing the disposition of funds following the sale. Annotated ([1988], 1p).
- Copy outlining the main expenditure from Ulster Bank following the completion of the sale of Thomas Prior House (10 June & 10 August 1988, 1p).

**P193/93** 8 December 1987–26 February 1990

28pp

**Bord Fáilte Grant**

Mostly correspondence and copies of legal documents concerning a grant of £50,000 made by Bord Fáilte to the School of Irish Studies to help with the improvement works to Thomas Prior House.

Includes:

- Copy of the draft Deed of Covenant between Bord Fáilte and the School of Irish Studies. Annotated (8 December 1987, 10pp).
- Letter from Matt McNulty, Deputy Director General, Bord Fáilte, Baggot Street Bridge, Dublin 2 to Dean Seán White, School of Irish Studies informing him that Bord Fáilte would like to recover £35,000 of the £50,000 grant following the decision by the School to sell Thomas Prior House. Remarks 'The matter of the new school and further developments would be separate issues which you can raise with us in the future when your plans are clear' (3 August 1988, 1p).
- Copy of a reply informing Matt McNulty that the Board of Governors of the School of Irish Studies have approved the repayment of £35,000 and that instructions have been given to the School's lawyers (13 October 1989, 1p).
- Copy of a letter from Matt McNulty acknowledging receipt of the sum of £35,000 and confirming it as the 'full and final discharge' of any liability of the School of Irish Studies for the grant received from Bord Fáilte (29 November 1989, 1p).

**5 IRISH STUDIES FOUNDATION USA, 1980–95**

**P193/94** 26 November 1980–May 1985

107pp

**Fundraising—Respondents**

Lists, reports and correspondence correspondence.

Includes:

- Timeline of the fundraising activities in America for the School of Irish Studies from the initial idea presented to the Executive by Dean White to the research phase and the appointment of consultants and the presentation of their report (26 November 1980–7 February 1985, 3pp).
- Confidential lists compiled by Malachy Glynn, Vice President, Brakeley Price Jones Consultants of individuals visited on behalf of the School of Irish Studies, other individuals who should be evaluated for their suitability and the prospects for a donation or to act as Regent candidates (not dated, 25pp).
- List of names and addresses of corporate business leaders with whom contact has been made about the School of Irish Studies

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(not dated, 12pp).

- Letter from P.J. Daly, Manager, Industrial Services Division, IDA Ireland to Dean Seán White commenting on the prospects for raising funds in America. Offers assistance through his contacts in North America. Agrees that the prospects of raising funds locally in Ireland are not favourable but mentions that CRH and Smurfit may be worth approaching. Suggests that the Dean contacts Malachi Martin, brother of FX Martin who he describes as '... extremely well connected with the upper elements of New York Society' (16 July 1984, 2pp).
- Report on a visit by Charles Kenny, Chairman of the Finance Committee, School of Irish Studies and Dean White to the USA in an effort to establish the fundraising potential for the School in America and the type of activity that would be required to encourage donations. Remarks that their visit was received well and that the prospects for raising money were favourable. Describes, in detail, the meetings that took place with Walter O'Connell, retired, John Lyons, IDA Ireland, John Roberts, President of American International Group, John Grimes, publisher, *Irish Echo*, Jim Baker, Grace Foundation, Nevins McBride, developer, Robert Mulshine, Price Waterhouse, Governor Brendan T. Byrne, John F. McCarthy III, lawyer, Donald Brennan, Morgan Stanley and Company, and Rushton Skakel (May 1985, 10pp).

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27 March 1984–4 February 1986

89pp

**Consultant's Report**

Minutes, reports and correspondence.

Includes:

- Minutes of a Finance Committee meeting at which Malachy M. Glynn gave a detailed presentation assessing the potential of the School of Irish Studies for fund raising in America, the structures already in existence that would make this a worthwhile venture and the strategy that could be employed to make a success of the proposal (27 March 1984, 5pp).
- Copy of a letter from Malachy M. Glynn, Lake Trail East, Morristown, New Jersey to Patrick C. Kilroy, Chairman, Gowan Group Ltd, 69 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2 referring to a recent visit to Ireland and a meeting with the Governors of the School of Irish Studies. Recommends that long-term planning should not be entered into until secure funding from the USA has been confirmed. Outlines other recommendations to be included in an initial report to the Board of Governors (4 April 1984, 2pp).
- Report of the findings and recommendations based on a market survey by George E. Diffley and Malachy M. Glynn on the feasibility and potential for raising funds in the USA for the use of the School of Irish Studies in Ireland. The report was commissioned by the Board of Governors of the School of Irish

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- Studies (25 January 1985, 35pp).
- Minutes of a Finance Committee meeting discussing the work of consultants Malachy Glynn and George Diffley on behalf of the School. Records the unanimous rejection of the estimated expenditure furnished by the consultants, which the committee felt was beyond the School's financial capabilities. Records a review by Malachy Glynn of the campaign to date including a question and answer session with the committee. Request by the committee for the consultants to return with a revised proposal (12 August 1985, 4pp).
  - Copy of a letter from Malachy M. Glynn to Seán White, acknowledging that the School have decided to proceed with a fundraising campaign in America and that his firm, North American Development Counsel, is to be retained to manage and direct the campaign. Outlines the fee structure and the fundraising target as well as arrangements for the creation of the Irish Studies Foundation (9 September 1985, 3pp).
  - Copy of a letter from Malachy M. Glynn, 39 Wetmore Avenue, Morristown, New Jersey to Seán White, summarising achievements to date and outlining the work to be undertaken. Refers to the composition of the US Advisory Committee of the School of Irish Studies, the appointment of a Chairman, finalising the application formally establishing the Irish Studies Foundation with the IRS, and proposals to be put to different American Foundations (16 January 1986, 6pp).
  - Copy of a letter from Malachy M. Glynn, 39 Wetmore Avenue, Morristown New Jersey to Seán White, replying in detail to a request for information from the Dean regarding fundraising strategies for the School, the drawing up of donor lists, actions to be taken over the next six months and the role of the US Advisory Committee (4 February 1986, 6pp).
  - Copy of a Campaign Plan of Action drawn up by the consultancy firm Brakeley Price Jones. The 'Action Plan' outlines the methods open to the School of Irish Studies on how to operate their fundraising campaign in America. Refers to the services that the company can offer to the School bearing in mind the budget and the resources available (23 October 1986, 11pp).

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18 October 1985–6 November 1987

95pp

**USA Fundraising—Meetings and Correspondence**

Report, itinerary, letters.

Includes:

- Detailed report on fund raising meetings in the US between Sean White, Dean, and Patrick C. Kilroy, Chairman, School of Irish Studies and various individuals of influence identified by the Consultant's report for the purposes of generating a solid financial source for the School as well as supporting the establishment of a School of Irish Studies Foundation (18

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- October–11 November 1985, 8pp).
- Copy of a [report] issued by John J. Conheaney, Chairman, US Advisory Committee, School of Irish Studies concerning an organisational meeting between the US Advisory Committee and the School of Irish Studies. Lists the attendees and summarises the discussion and presentations made at an informal reception and dinner held in advance of the meeting. Summarises the main discussion points at the meeting that focused on background information on the School, the needs of the School, seed-funding, the solicitation of funds from outside resources, the structure of the US Advisory Committee, candidates that would be suitable to serve on the committee, liaison between the US Advisory Committee and the Board of Governors of the School, an assessment of the US fund raising campaign, the expansion of student numbers, the establishment of a non-profit corporation entitled 'The Irish Studies Foundation Inc' and recommendations on how to foster a good working relationship between the School, the Foundation and the US Advisory Committee (12 March 1986, 5pp).
  - Report by Joseph McCullough, Chairman, Finance and Development Committee on his visit to the US on behalf of the School of Irish Studies. Remarks that the report is designed to '...assist committee members in Dublin by registering my own impressions and conclusions from the visit.' Organises the report under the headings 'Fundraising Prospects', 'Fundraisers and Costs', 'Relationships', 'Long-Term'. Also includes factual notes about the people he met and events attended. Annotated (14 March 1986, 5pp).
  - Letter from Albert G. McCarthy III, Secretary, Loyola Foundation Inc, 308 C Street NE, Washington DC, USA to Seán White, Dean, School of Irish Studies expressing his regret on behalf of the Foundation that they cannot accede to the request for financial support '... because it falls outside the primary purpose of the Foundations, the support of overseas Catholic mission activities ...' (8 May 1986, 1p).
  - List of recommendations for short-term fundraising by the US Board of Regents of the School of Irish Studies to meet the cost of the repair and restoration of Thomas Prior House. Annotated (17 September 1986, 2pp).
  - Detailed memorandum of a meeting of the Advisory Committee of the School of Irish Studies at the offices of McGraw-Hill Inc, 1221 Avenue of the Americas, 48<sup>th</sup> Street, New York. Refers to the passing of a resolution establishing a Board of Regents of the School of Irish Studies. Describes the composition of the Board. Resolution to dissolve the US Advisory Committee of the School of Irish Studies. Agreement that the Board of Regents would become an Advisory Committee to the Irish Studies Foundation Inc. Report by John Conheaney of two visits to Chicago and the level of support for the School. Report by Patrick Kilroy on the present stage of renovation of Thomas Prior House and the lack of funds available to allow them to proceed further. Discussion concerning the importance of maintaining an alumni register and the proposed summer

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programme for 1987. General discussion concerning short term funding for the School and criticism from some Regents over the circulation of the memorandum at the meeting and not in advance. Refers to private executive meeting which immediately followed the Regents meeting to discuss Malachy Glynn's contract and that his fee was of concern to the Board of Governors in Ireland. Suggestion that Malachy Glynn be asked to work on a percentage basis. Remarks 'Mr Kilroy said that the Board of Governors would be very happy if this could be achieved as they had failed to convince Mr Glynn that he should act on this basis' (22 September 1986, 6pp).

- Copy of a letter from Malachy M. Glynn, Brakeley, John Price Jones Inc, Connecticut, USA to John J. Conheeney, Chairman, Merrill Lynch Futures Inc, New York outlining the current situation, and how best to serve the immediate financial needs of the School. Acknowledges that the services given to the School by Brakeley were not up to the usual high standard due in part to him joining the firm and the transition this entailed. Remarks that 'corrective action' has now been taken and outlines what this is. Continues 'In Brakeley's role as consultants we must provide guidance to the Regents. In turn, the Regents, the Foundation and the School must try to follow the guidance which we provide'. Outlines, in some detail, the specific tasks and objectives that need to be addressed (10 October 1986, 4pp).
- Copy of a letter from Patience Jerman, Director of Major Gifts, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio to Seán White, Dean outlining in detail what she considers are the necessary steps to be taken in order to raise funds in America for the renovation of Thomas Prior House. Provides details of the terms under which she would be prepared to work on the project (13 January 1987, 5pp).
- Copy of a letter from Patience Jerman, Director of Major Gifts, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio to John J. Conheeney, Chairman, Merrill Lynch Futures Inc, New York and Chairman of the Board of Regents, School of Irish Studies providing a resumé of her career and experience in fundraising activities (13 January 1987, 5pp).
- Report on meetings in America with the Board of Regents edited from Mr Kilroy's notes by Seán White. Describes a business trip to the US where he had the opportunity to contact each individual Regent to elicit their response to a guaranteed loan for the School. Remarks that overall the response was positive in relation to the loan guarantee. Summarises the reaction of each Regent he met and the scope of their support (14-18 September 1987, 2pp).
- Copy of a letter from Thomas J. Sullivan, McGraw-Hill Inc, 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York to the US Board of Regents, School of Irish Studies emphasising the urgent need to raise funds for the School. Remarks 'If the funds are not forthcoming, the only alternative seems to be to sell the Thomas Prior House. After that, I don't know what happens.' Includes a summary of the use and sources of funds to date (6 November 1987, 4pp).

**P193/97** 19 November 1985–2 May 1986

18pp

**Establishment**

Official documents establishing the Irish Studies Foundation Inc.

Includes:

- Copy of the Certificate of Incorporation (19 November 1985, 7pp).
- Copy of the By-Laws (December 1985, 7pp).

**P193/98** 24 November 1986–20 October 1987

16pp

**Reports of the Dean**

Includes:

- Report outlining a Board of Regents meeting in America attended by the Dean. The Dean was mandated by the Finance and Development Committee of the School of Irish Studies to attend the meeting due to the unhappiness with the lack of progress by the consultant Malachy Glynn and his firm Brakeley Price Jones and the raising of funds in America for the School. Remarks that at the meeting it was decided not to renew the contract with the consultancy firm and that the matter was dealt with quickly and efficiently (30 November 1986, 2pp). A copy of the minutes of the Board of Regents meeting summarising the discussion is also included (24 November 1986, 2pp).
- Detailed report of Dean Seán White's visit to America to ascertain the progress of the Board of Regents in their attempts to raise funds in America in light of the resignation of the Chairman John Conheeny and the absence of the professional fund raisers since their departure at the end of November 1986. Provides a summary of his impression of the Board of Regents and the general absence of purpose. Remarks that individually the Regents were interested and enthusiastic but that they were lacking leadership and drive. Remarks that Tom Sullivan, President of the Board of Regents set up a meeting with two other Regents, Jack McCarthy and Tony Cahill. 'From this meeting I gathered that the regents very much still wanted to do things their own way and while they welcomed the presence of the Dean and back-up from Dublin they insisted that they were the people to determine the next steps.' Remarks that he impressed on them the financial state of the School, which they understood but that he observed '...decided differences between the individuals on methodology ...' Outlines his opinion on the different personalities on the Board of Regents and the level of interest and involvement they have on the Board as well as expertise. Refers to approaches made to potential new Regents to serve on the Board and contacts he made with different foundations

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in America who may be useful to the School of Irish Studies. Suggests that a different level of involvement—Friends of the School of Irish Studies—may also yield some funds. Remarks that he organised two alumni meetings and indicates the level of interest in the summer programme. Concludes ‘My all over view is that the Board of Regents’ structure we have set up for our fund-raising efforts is essentially intact and is the nearest method to hand for fund-raising still. While the regents must be encouraged and helped they cannot however be driven—certainly not by any orders from Dublin.’ Remarks that the appointment of Patience Jerman as administrative support for the fund raising efforts has been a positive step and that he feels there is no need for him to spend any longer in America (March–April 1987, 7pp).

- Report of a visit by Seán White and Joseph McCullough to attend a Regent’s meeting in America. Refers to the unfortunate timing of the visit coinciding with the Stock Market crash. Remarks that it would seem that John Conheeny was interested in resuming his involvement with the School of Irish Studies but that it was unclear whether he would assume the position of Chairman of the Board of Regents. Remarks that they presented to the Board the current financial position of the School including the purchase of Thomas Prior House and the renovations carried out. Explained the urgency of funds required by the School with an immediate need of \$200,000. Describes the reaction of the Regents to this report. Remarks that it was agreed to expand the membership of the Board of Regents to at least 30 members. Concludes that notwithstanding the Stock Market crisis it should be possible to raise an initial figure of \$80,000 before Christmas (20 October 1987, 4pp).

**P193/99** 21 July 1988–9 December 1992

48pp

**Jack McCarthy and Administration of the Irish Studies Foundation Inc**

Mostly correspondence.

Includes:

- Letter from Jack F. McCarthy III, McCarthy and Schatzman, Law Offices, Princeton, New Jersey to Joseph McCullough, School of Irish Studies, Thomas Prior House, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 asking him to resign as a member of the Board of Directors and as an officer of The Irish Studies Foundation Inc ‘In order to make it easier to function as a non-profit corporation ...’ (21 July 1988, 1p).
- Copy of a letter from Patrick C. Kilroy and Joseph McCullough to Jack F. McCarthy III asking him to send copies of the financial accounts of the Foundation in order that they can report to the Governor of the School. Also requests a current list of the Directors of the Foundation and what steps need to

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be taken if the School wished to change its nominees on the Board of the Foundation (25 July 1988, 1p).

- Copy of a reply enclosing copies of the requested documentation. Notes in his letter a donation of \$20,000 from the friendly Sons of St Patrick of Mercer County, Inc. Refers to Patience Ryan (also Patience Jerman), employed as administrative support to the Foundation, and remarks that since her appointment as a consultant she has not succeeded in bringing in any money to the Foundation (27 July 1988, 2pp).
- Copy of a letter from Patrick C. Kilroy, 69 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2 to Seán White, Dean, School of Irish Studies, Thomas Prior House, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 referring to the recent communications with Jack McCarthy. Remarks that he has been in telephone contact with Jack McCarthy and describes him as 'rather upset'. Continues 'He said that there was nothing coming into the Foundation except what he was putting in ...' Remarks that he would like to meet Seán White to discuss the matter. Concludes 'I have a great deal of sympathy with the views expressed by Jack McCarthy in relation to Patience Ryan' and notes that Jack McCarthy's request that someone else take over the administrative duties '... provides you with a suitable way out and that you should consider how best to take him up on this' (1 August 1988, 2pp).
- Copy of a letter from Jack F. McCarthy III, McCarthy and Schatzman, Law Offices, Princeton, New Jersey to Patrick C. Kilroy, 69 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2 resigning as Director, Chairman and Assistant Treasurer of the Foundation. Remarks 'I did offer to keep the Foundation going provided the entire administration of it could be simplified ... It seems however, that even this simplification cannot be done without numerous letters and delay' (16 August 1988, 1p).
- Copy of a reply expressing his regret that Jack McCarthy has decided to resign (1 September 1988, 1p).
- Copy of a document confirming resolutions relevant to the Irish Studies Foundation Inc and its administration, namely the resignation of a number of named Directors, the reappointment of named individuals as Directors, the election of officers of the Foundation, an amendment to one of the by-laws of the Foundation, the removal of the Board of Regents as an advisory committee to the Foundation and the transition of the Foundation's headquarters to new premises ([December 1988], 2pp).
- Letter from Jack F. McCarthy III, McCarthy and Schatzman, Law Offices, Princeton, New Jersey to Patrick C. Kilroy, Solicitor, Kilroy and Co Solicitors, 69 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2 concerning a contribution to the School of Irish Studies made by the Friendly Sons of St Patrick of Mercer County. Asks for a detailed account of the financial particulars of the School including how the School used the \$40,000 donation from the friendly Sons and the profits from the sale of Thomas Prior House (8 July 1992, 1p).
- Copy of a letter from Kevin B. Nowlan, Chairman, Board of

**P193/99**

Governors, School of Irish Studies to Jack F. McCarthy III, McCarthy and Schatzman, Law Offices, Princeton, New Jersey explaining the current structure of the School of Irish Studies. Refers to the sale of Thomas Prior House and remarks that the funds received from the sale and all other funds were ‘... properly employed in the statutory objective under the Memorandum and Articles of Association in the promotion of the study of Irish culture’ (21 September 1992, 2pp).

- Reply thanking Professor Nowlan for his letter and enclosures. Refers to the accounts of the School and notes the sum of money £130,437 as a result of the sale of Thomas Prior House. Asks the Board of Governors to consider repaying the \$40,000 contribution (14 October 1992, 1p).
- Copy of a letter from McCann FitzGerald Solicitors acting on behalf of the School of Irish Studies to Jack F. McCarthy III, McCarthy and Schatzman, Law Offices, Princeton, New Jersey remarking that the School does not consider itself under any obligation to repay the contribution made by the Friendly Sons and hopes that no further claim will be made (9 December 1992, 2pp).

**P193/100** 21 July 1989–20 March 1995

47pp

**Irish Studies Foundation—Winding up**

Mostly correspondence.

Includes:

- Minutes of a meeting between Tom Sullivan and members of the School of Irish Studies concerning the decision to suspend the semester programme. Refers to a new philosophy for the School with the emphasis on the ‘lone scholar’ as the main beneficiary. Emphasises the importance of American involvement and the continuation of funding from America. The minutes record Tom Sullivan’s general support for the new venture with more specific examples of the new activities of the School required. Agreement that the Foundation should remain in place as a tax shelter. Agreement also that a more detailed document will be prepared for circulation to the Regents (21 July 1989, 1p).
- Copy of a letter from Dean Seán White to Tom Sullivan, Executive Vice President, McGraw Hill Inc, New York asking him to explore the options for legally winding up the Foundation. Remarks ‘Please let me know as soon as possible if you could kindly undertake this last piece of unfinished business for us which is in the interests of a just and legal solution to the enterprises in which we all have been involved’ (12 November 1992, 1p).
- Copy of the Certificate of Dissolution of the Irish Studies Foundation Inc (7 December 1994, 4pp).
- Copy of a letter from Dean Seán White to Tom Sullivan, Executive Vice President, McGraw Hill Inc, New York

**P193/100** expressing his thanks and the thanks of the Board of Governors of the School of Irish Studies for his assistance in finalising the dissolution of the Irish Studies Foundation (20 March 1995, 1p).

## **6 SCHOOL OF IRISH STUDIES FOUNDATION, 1991–2003**

1991–2001

146pp

### **Awards**

Series of files of applications. Also letters of acceptance and thanks from successful applicants. publicity literature, press releases concerning the awards made by the School of Irish Studies Foundation for the study and promotion of Irish culture. The awards were made to individuals and cultural bodies and provided financial assistance to projects in the fields of Irish history, literature, the arts, preparation of books, articles and the holding of events such as conferences, seminars, lectures and exhibitions.

**P193/101** 1991

5pp

### **Applications for awards**

Includes:

- List of successful applicants for 1990 (not dated, 1p).

**P193/102** 4 June 1991–22 November 1992

35pp

### **Applications for awards**

Includes:

- List of recipients of the 1991 awards, the project and the amount awarded (not dated, 2pp).
- Copy of a press release announcing the Foundation awards for 1991. The awards ceremony took place in the Royal Institute of Architects and were presented by the Tánaiste, John Wilson TD (11 March 1992, 3pp).

**P193/103** 11 March 1992

5pp

**Applications for awards**

Includes:

- List of recipients of the 1992 Foundation awards, the project and the amount awarded (11 March 1992, 1p).

**P193/104** 25 September 1993–8 January 1994

22pp

**Applications for awards**

Includes:

- List of successful recipients of the 1993 awards, the project and the amount awarded (26 November 1993, 1p).
- Copy of a press release announcing the Foundation awards for 1993. The awards ceremony took place in Newman House, St Stephen's Green and were presented by Professor Patrick Masterson, President, University College Dublin (26 November 1993, 2pp).

**P193/105** 14 June–24 September 1994

41pp

**Applications for awards**

Includes:

- List of recipients of the 1994 awards, the project and the amount awarded (2 September 1994, 1p).
- Copy of a press release announcing the Foundation awards for 1994. The awards ceremony took place in the St Stephen's Green Club and were presented by the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the School of Irish Studies Professor Kevin B Nowlan (2 September 1994, 1p).
- Copy of the Executive Committee Report for 1994. Refers to the final resolution and dissolution of the Irish Studies Foundation in the US with most of the work being carried out by Mr Tom Sullivan at no extra cost to the School of Irish Studies. Records the Executive Committee's gratitude to Mr Sullivan. Remarks 'The servicing of the School of Irish Studies Foundation Awards promotion and adjudication and presentation of awards continue as a normal business of the School of Irish Studies activities' ([September 1994, 2pp).

**P193/106** 2 June 1994–8 August 1995

25pp

**Applications for awards**

Includes:

- Application forms for the 1995 Foundation awards (not dated, 8pp).
- List of recipients of the 1995 awards, the project and the amount awarded. Annotated (5 July 1994, 2pp).

**P193/107** 1996

2pp

**Applications for awards**

Includes:

- Invitation issued to Joe McCullough to attend the awards ceremony (17 July 1996, 1p).
- Executive Committee report detailing the list of successful applicants, the project and amount awarded (1996, 2pp).

**P193/108** 1997

3pp

**Applications for awards**

Includes:

- List of successful applicants, the project and amount awarded (1997, 1p).
- Executive Committee report detailing the list of successful applicants, the project and amount awarded. Refers to the possibility of disposing the remaining funds and winding up the Foundation (1997, 2pp).

**P193/109** 1998

3pp

**Applications for awards**

Includes:

- Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting detailing the discussion on the preliminary list of applicants and agreement that the remaining funds be distributed and the activities of the School of Irish Studies brought to a conclusion. Agreement that the awards scheme should be continued if possible. Annotated (29 January 1988, 1p).
- Executive Committee report detailing the list of successful

- P193/109** applicants, the project and amount awarded. Includes the recipient of the Seán White Memorial Award and an addendum to the initial awards list to include two further recipients (1998, 3pp).
- P193/110** 1999  
2pp  
**Applications for awards**  
Includes:  
▪ List of recipients, project and amount awarded (1999, 2pp).
- P193/111** 2000  
1p  
**Applications for awards**  
Includes:  
▪ List of recipients and successful projects. Annotated (2000, 1p).
- P193/112** 2001  
1p  
**Applications for awards**  
Includes:  
▪ List of recipients and successful project (2001, 1p).
- P193/113** 6 December 1991–11 March 2003  
c300pp  
**Correspondence**  
Mostly letters relating to the application process and the financial awards granted by the Foundation. The awards were made to individuals and cultural bodies and provided financial assistance to projects in the fields of Irish history, literature, the arts, the preparation of books and articles and the holding of events such as conferences, seminars, lectures and exhibitions. The file represents the scope of the Foundation and the many projects that benefited from the allocation of the awards. Many are letters of thanks from the recipients.  
Includes:  
▪ Letter from Bernard Loughlin, Resident Director, The Tyrone

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Guthrie Centre, Annaghmakerrig, County Monaghan to Dr Rosemarie Mulcahy, 52 Leeson Park, Dublin 6 acknowledging the agreement by the Board of the School of Irish Studies Foundation to provide bursaries to support the work of the Centre. Discusses how this could be facilitated (14 June 1994, 2pp).

- Copy of a letter from Rosemarie Mulcahy, Honorary Secretary, School of Irish Studies Foundation to Bernard Loughlin, The Tyrone Guthrie Centre informing him that the Foundation has agreed to commit to funding a scholarship at Annaghmakerrig for the next three years to the value of £2,000 per annum (19 March 1997, 1p).
- Letter from Muriel McCarthy, Keeper, Archbishop Marsh's Library, St Patrick's Close, Dublin 8 to Rosemarie Mulcahy, Secretary, School of Irish Studies Foundation acknowledging the generosity of the Foundation to fund exhibitions in the library over three years 1997, 1998 and 1999 (2 March 1998, 1p).
- Letter from Peter Pearson, 2 Palace Street, Dublin 2 to Rosemarie Mulcahy appealing for a financial contribution towards the publication of his book on the homes and buildings of south County Dublin, encloses an outline of the book. A copy of a reply from Dr Mulcahy indicates that the committee would be in favour of supporting this work in the next round of Foundation awards (20–26 May 1998, 5pp).
- Letter from Christopher Murray, Department of English, University College Dublin to Rosemarie Mulcahy expressing his appreciation for the Seán J White Award presented to him. Remarks that it will enable him to carry out further research for his biography of Seán O'Casey (12 June 1998, 1p).
- Letter from Mary New (former Registrar of the School of Irish Studies), 4 Summerhill Court, Glasthule, County Dublin to Rosemarie Mulcahy seeking a subvention to cover her travel costs to Pennsylvania for a reunion of the class of 1976–77 of the School of Irish Studies (25 July 2002, 1p).
- Reply stating that although the funds of the SIS are almost depleted the Foundation had considered her application favourably in the light of her long association with the School (23 August 2002, 1p).
- Letter from Keith Hopper, Junior Research Fellow, St Cross College, Oxford to Rosemarie Mulcahy, Honorary Secretary expressing his sadness on learning the news that the School of Irish Studies Foundation is winding up. Remarks 'Your tireless support for projects of Irish cultural interest over the past ten years has proved invaluable, and I know that your work is much appreciated by everyone involved in Irish Studies (11 March 2003, 1p).

**P193/114** 3 January 1990; 17 April 2001–30 May 2002

26pp

**Fundraising**

File of correspondence relating to the appeal for funds by the SIS Foundation in order to continue its grant award scheme.

Includes:

- Letter from Adrian Munnely, Director, The Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2 to Seán White, School of Irish Studies, Thomas Prior House, Merrion Road, Dublin 4 concerning an application for funds from the National Lottery. Informs him that the application has been unsuccessful (3 January 1990, 1p).
- Copy of a letter from Rosemarie Mulcahy, Honorary Secretary, School of Irish Studies Foundation, 52 Leeson Park, Dublin 6 to Mrs Loretta Glucksman Chairman of the American Ireland Fund asking to meet with her in New York and seeking her advice on how the School could raise funds in order to continue its work. Outlines the work of the SIS Foundation since 1994 and provides a summary of the awards granted (17 April 2001, 3pp).
- Copy of a letter from Rosemarie Mulcahy, Honorary Secretary, School of Irish Studies Foundation, 52 Leeson Park, Dublin 6 to Kieran McLoughlin, Director, Ireland, The Ireland Funds, 5 Foster Place, Dublin 2 concerning the possibility of the Ireland Funds supporting the SIS Foundation. Outlines the work of the SIS Foundation since 1994 and provides a list of the awards granted (6 January 2002, 9pp).
- Reply asking that an application form be completed and returned (9 January 2002, 1p).
- Copy of the application submitted by the SIS Foundation to the Ireland Funds (25 January 2002, 7pp).
- Letter from Kieran McLoughlin, Director, Ireland, The Ireland Funds, 5 Foster Place, Dublin 2 to Rosemarie Mulcahy informing her that the Board of the Ireland Funds has 'reluctantly' decided not to make a grant available to the SIS Foundation (30 May 2002, 1p).

**7 CLOSURE, 2002–03**

**P193/115** 10 July 2002–31 October 2003

10pp

**School of Irish Studies Ltd—Cessation**

Correspondence concerning the end of the SIS Foundation as an award granting body and consequently the cessation of the company, the School of Irish Studies Ltd.

Includes:

- Copy of a letter from the Board of Governors, School of Irish Studies to Sinnott Hughes & Co, 69 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin

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2 asking them to initiate the appropriate steps to implement the resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting to wind up the company, the School of Irish Studies Ltd (22 January 2003, 1p).

- Official strike-off notice issued by the Companies Registration Office (17 October 2003, 1p).