

Royal Cork Institution

Ref. IE CCCA/RCI

Descriptive List

Cork City and County Archives

Table of Contents

IDENTITY STATEMENT	2
CONTEXT	2
Creator:	2
Biographical/Administrative History:.....	2
Archival History	2
CONTENT AND STRUCTURE	3
Scope and Content:.....	3
CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE.....	3
Conditions Governing Access:.....	3
Language:	3
Finding Aids:.....	3
ALLIED MATERIALS	3
Related Units of Description:	3
Publication Note:	4
RULES /CONVENTIONS USED:	4
ARCHIVIST’S NOTE	4
ITEM DESCRIPTIONS.....	5

IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference: IE CCCA/RCI

Title: Royal Cork Institution

Level of description: fonds

Date: 1829 - 1881

Extent: 8 items

CONTEXT

Creator:

Royal Cork Institution

Biographical/Administrative History:

Cork Institution was cultural institution and educational centre founded by Rev. Thomas Dix Hincks, a minister of the Presbyterian Meeting House, Princes Street, Cork. It was modelled on institutions such as the Royal Dublin Society. Its goal was 'diffusing the knowledge and facilitating the general introduction of all improvements in Arts and Manufactures and for teaching, by courses of Philosophical Lectures and experiments, the application of science to the common purposes of life'. Incorporated by royal charter in 1807 and renamed the Royal Cork Institution (RCI), it received government funding and operated from premises on the South Mall opposite the current Imperial Hotel. Early patrons included merchants and gentry including William Beamish, William Crawford, Cooper Penrose, and James Roche. The proprietors consisted of 200 noblemen and gentlemen from whom 30 managers were chosen every 3 years, with the Lord Lieutenant of the County as President. The official Patron was the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and also Lord Chancellors and Bishops had the power to oversee and reform. In 1807 a parliamentary grant of £2,000 was made to the Royal Dublin Society for the use of the Royal Cork Institution and continued annually until 1830 when it was withdrawn and the Institution was compelled to stop operations. It offered courses and public lectures on science, and scientific principles relating to agriculture and industry. The Institution had a collection of scientific instruments and a large library and museum collection. It was involved in establishing the Schools of Art and Science and the School of Design.

Archival History

Originally part of the 'Day Papers' accession from Alec Day, donated in 1973, together with the papers of Richard Dowden (U140) and an artificial collection relating to relatives of Richard Dowden.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Scope and Content:

- (1) Minute book of the Managers, 1861 - 1881 (c300pp)
- (2) Minute book of Library Committee, 1829 - 1830 (82pp)
- (3) Account of Proprietors of the RCI, 1841 - 1842 (2pp)
- (4) Ballot sheet for election to Board [of Management] (2 items)
- (5) Note from D. Caulfield [?1840s] (1p)
- (6) Receipts from Munster Room Paper Depot, 1881 - 1884 (3 items)
- (7) Newsclippings, ?1830s-1850s (2 items)
- (8) 'A Catalogue of the Chemical & Philosophical Apparatus, Farming Implements &etc. belonging to the Cork Institution'. 1818, , also record of items lent 1830s-1850s. (2 items)
- (9) 'Library Manual' with lists of accessions to library, also note with a count of the volumes in the collection; and copy of a memorial to government; 1831-1838 (2 items)

>>>SEE ITEM DESCRIPTIONS FOR MORE DETAILS>>>

CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE

Conditions Governing Access:

Open by appointment to those holding a current readers ticket

Language:

English

Finding Aids:

Descriptive List

ALLIED MATERIALS

Related Units of Description:

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Description</i>
U140	Richard Dowden Papers
U140/J/03/36	Royal Cork Institution file
CLS	Cork Literary and Scientific Society
UCC Library MSS U/70 ; MP691;	

MP75, MP843, MP71	
National Library MSS. 17,800; 5988, 5989	

Publication Note:

'Royal Cork Institution, Pioneer of Education', by Kieran McCarthy (2011)

RULES /CONVENTIONS USED:

ISADG

ARCHIVIST'S NOTE

Prepared by: Brian McGee, Archivist, CCCA

Date: 17 Jul 2014

(8) Note of account on 'Sale of Broken Apparatus', amounts received from Dr.Caulfield, Dec 1869.
(1p)

(9) Enclosure; record of items lent on various dates (1830s-1850s)) to Doctor Bennett, Thomas Beale, Doctor Caesar, Robert & Lecky, Dr. Kehoe, Dr. Woods, Samuel Wright, F. Jennings. (Damaged) 3pp

Ref: RCI/09 **Date:** 1831 - 1838

Title: 'Library Manual', Cork Institution

Level: item

Extent: 18pp

Scope and Content:

(1) 'Library Manual', with list of accessions of books journals and pamphlets presented to the RCI Library such as, 24 Apr 1834, 'Improvements on Steam engines' by Samuel Hall, pamphlet, presented by John Lecky; and such as; 1 Jul 1831, 'A letter from General Arthur C O'Connor to General Lafayette on the causes which have deprived France of the advantages of the revolution of 1830', pamphlet, London, presented by the author; and such as; 18 Mar 1836 'A system of Chemistry of inorganic bodies'; by Thomas Thompson MD 1831; and such as; 20 Jul 1837, 'Message from the President of the United States upon the subject of the political, military, and civil condition of Texas', 22 Dec 1806, presented by Mr.King.

(2) Also, note 'Renumeration and Description of Books in the Library', with numbers for each subject and a total 4376 volumes.

(3) On reverse, copy of memorial of the President, Managers, Proprietors etc. of the Royal Cork Institution to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury. Relates reason for establishment of the Institution, and that it consists of 200 noblemen and gentlemen as proprietors, from whom 30 managers are chosen every 3 years with the Lord Lieutenant of the County as President, Patrons include Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and Visitors include Lord Chancellors and bishops with power to reform. In 1807 a parliamentary grant of £2,000 was made to the Royal Dublin Society for the use of the Royal Cork Institution and continued annually until 1830 when it was withdrawn and the Institution was compelled to stop operations. Appeals for a grant in aid of additional lecture rooms and restoration of the annual grant, arguing that 'great and permanent benefits to Art, Science and Agriculture arose from its lectures, publications and botanical gardens...and that it also materially promoted scientific knowledge and aided the general progress of social improvement throughout the South of Ireland...'. Refers to establishment of School of Design and that the president and professors of the Queen's College fully approve of the views and plans.
