

MS 65 Corr Collection

About the collection:

This collection comprises documents and artefacts from the Corr family archive. The collection pertains mainly to Elizabeth Corr. Biographical information for Elizabeth Corr is available on the website [A Century of Women](#) and in [The Women of Belfast: Cumann na mBan, Easter Week and After](#) by Margaret Ward.

In the period around 1916 the Corr family, from Belfast's Ormeau Road, played significant roles in seminal events of the time, including the Easter Rising, the Irish revolutionary period post 1916, and the First World War. Elizabeth and Nell were members of Cumann na mBan and Henry a member of the Irish Volunteers. Their brothers George and Charles fought in the First World War for the Australian and Canadian armies.

The items in this collection featured in *The Corr Family – Witnessing History* exhibition which ran at the Linen Hall Library in April 2016, and at the Ulster Museum in July and August 2016. The collection was donated to Special Collections & Archives, Queen's University Belfast in 2018 by James G. May. The donor has retained some items that featured in the 2016 exhibition.



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MS 65/1 Tara brooch

Tara brooch “made from melted spoons, made by republican prisoners in Crumlin Road Gaol and presented to Elizabeth Corr (c1918)” – label for *Witnessing History* exhibition.

The back of the brooch reads: “A little bit of Belfast Jail”.

See note on brooch in *Irish Weekly (Belfast)*, ‘Outside Crumlin Road Jail’ at [MS 65/10/5](#).

MS 65/2 Service medals

MS 65/2/1

The 1916 Medal. Awarded to Elizabeth Corr.

MS 65/2/2

1916 Survivors Medal. Awarded to Elizabeth Corr.

MS 65/2/3

The Service (1917-21) Medal. Awarded to Nell Corr.

MS 65/2/4

Department of Defence documents. Two bound files from Department of Defence, one relating to Nell Corr, one to Elizabeth Corr. Includes application for medals, citations and description of awarded medals. Photocopies.

MS 65/3 Golden Jubilee medal of Pioneer Temperance Association

Gilt plated medal and bar awarded to Elizabeth Corr for lifelong alcohol temperance.



MS 65/4 Longford 1917 McGuinness election win

MS 65/4/1

'Up Longford' journal. Dated 09/05/1917. Green, limp cover. Typescript, handwritten edits, 38 pp. Some postcard insertions. Elizabeth's account of the Longford By-Election won by Joseph McGuinness. pp. 17-20 have been torn out. Missing pages believed to have been removed by RIC following seizure and eventual return to Elizabeth Corr.

MS 65/4/2

'The Colours'. Additional account of 1917 Longford election. Typescript, handwritten edits, 46 pp.

MS 65/5 Elizabeth Corr's personal journal

Typescript, handwritten edits, 99 pp., foolscap. Contains illustrations, postcards and newspaper cuttings. Includes description of O'Donovan Rossa Funeral and travel writing in Donegal. Pages are numbered 42-44, 56-61, 66-129, 132-156. Missing pages believed to have been removed by RIC following seizure and returned thereafter.

See also *Irish Press* article 'We got used to being raided' at [MS 65/10/6](#).

MS 65/6 Easter 1916

Typescript, 6pp., quarto. Partial journal written by Elizabeth Corr describing her experience during the Easter Rising 1916. Pages numbered 3-4, 5-6, 9½

MS 65/7 Correspondence

MS 65/7/1 22/03/1918 Autograph letter signed, from Muriel MacSwiney. 1 p.

MS 65/7/2 05/[09]/[1918] Autograph letter signed, from Terence MacSwiney to Elizabeth Corr. 2 pp.
“Written in pencil while in transit to Lincoln Prison in England, following his release from Crumlin Road Gaol” – label for *Witnessing History* exhibition. 2 facsimiles and transcript.

MS 65/7/3 26/07/1916 Typescript note, signed. 1 p. ‘A Prayer (In my cell at Reading)’.
“Written and signed by Terence MacSwiney in Reading Gaol in 1916 and given by him to Elizabeth Corr.” – label for *Witnessing History* exhibition.

MS 65/7/4 14/07/1916 Autograph letter, 2 pp. Marked "copy", "14 July 1916" at top of page.
Addressed to "My dear Brigid", "(signed) Roger Casement". Provenance unknown.
'Brigid' possibly refers to F.J. Bigger's housekeeper.

MS 65/7/5 08/01/1917 Letter addressed to Mr James Corr, 107 Ormeau Road Belfast.
Notification of George Corr's death on 20/07/1916. Photocopy.

MS 65/7/6 1966 Invitation to attend ceremonies to mark 50th anniversary of Easter Rising.
Envelope addressed to Miss Elizabeth Corr.
Dublin Castle reception notes, 17/04/1966. 2 pp.
Ceremonial opening of Garden of Remembrance notes, 11/04/1966. 2 pp.
Admission arrangements. 1 p.
Taoiseach's invitation to Garden of Remembrance opening 11/04/1966. 1 p.
Tánaiste's invitation to premiere of *An Tine Bheo* at the Savoy Cinema, 10/04/1966. 2pp.
Eblana Theatre Club programme 17-23/04/1966. 4 pp.

MS 65/7/7 1987 Telegram from Queen Elizabeth II on Elizabeth Corr's 100th birthday

MS 65/8 **Radio Scripts**

MS 65/8/1 [1966] 'Thrills and an Easter Memory'.

Typescript, handwritten edits, 6 pp., foolscap. Verso sides are Holy Rosary Parish bulletins. 6pp.

"RTE radio script written and presented by Elizabeth Corr (1966)" – label for *Witnessing History* exhibition.

MS 65/8/2 [1958] 'I remember Terence MacSwiney'.

Typescript, 16 pp., quarto.

"RTE radio script written and presented by Elizabeth Corr (1958)" – label for *Witnessing History* exhibition.

MS 65/8/3 [1966] 'Highlights of a Long Life'.

Radio script. Typescript, handwritten edits, 26 pp., foolscap. Signed Eilis ní Chorra. Verso sides are Holy Rosary Parish bulletins.

"Article written by Elizabeth Corr (c1966) describing events in Liberty Hall, Easter 1916." – label for *Witnessing History* exhibition.

MS 65/9 **Photographs**

MS 65/9/1

Belfast Public Libraries Senior Library Staff in the yard of Belfast Central Library in 1909. Photocopy. Courtesy of Belfast Central Library. 1 p. List of senior Library staff in photograph. 1 p.

Photocopy of salary details from Library record. 1 p.

Information from a database giving genealogical information for Corr family. 1 p.

MS 65/9/2

Photograph of Elizabeth Corr sent by *Bergen Tinde* newspaper from their 1966 archive

MS 65/10 Newspaper cuttings

- MS 65/10/1** [1922] 'The Cumann na mBan Convention. A Belfast Visitor's Impressions'.
Article mounted on green photograph album page. Includes other cuttings mounted at the side and to rear, also believed to have been written by Elizabeth Corr ('A Mark Tapley Abroad', 'Pleasures Money Can't Buy' and 'The Lover').
"Newspaper article written by Elizabeth Corr in 1922, describing the Cumann na mBan Convention called to discuss the Treaty." – label for *Witnessing History* exhibition.
- MS 65/10/2** 09/04/1966 'Takk, Gud, for at jeg fikk oppleve denne dagen' by Elizabeth Corr. *Bergens Tidende*.
- MS 65/10/3** 25/05/1966 'Veteran's views on the commemoration' by Elizabeth Corr. *Irish Press*.
- MS 65/10/4** 24/01/1970 'Alice Milligan Patriot and poet' by Elizabeth Corr. *Irish Weekly (Belfast)*.
- MS 65/10/5** 14/02/1970 'Outside Crumlin Road Jail'. *Irish Weekly (Belfast)*.
Article by Elizabeth Corr on memories of visiting prisoners in Crumlin Road jail as a young woman. See note regarding [MS 65/1](#) Tara Brooch.
- MS 65/10/6** 09/10/1970 'We got used to being raided' by Elizabeth Corr. *Irish Press*. 2 copies.
- MS 65/10/7** 1987 'Oldest residenter remembers first parish priest'.
Article in south Belfast newspaper on 100th birthday of Elizabeth Corr.

MS 65/11 The Capuchin annual 1966

Signed Ellis ní Chorra. Special 1916 50th anniversary edition of the *Capuchin Annual* containing article 'A Rebel Remembers' by Elizabeth Corr on p.293-301.

MS 65/12 Pamphlets

Casement, Roger. *Speech of Roger Casement from the dock: (executed in Pentonville Prison, August 3rd, 1916)*. Dublin: Fergus O'Connor, [c1917]

Pearse, Padraic. *How does she stand? Three addresses*. Dublin: "Irish Freedom Office, 12 D'Olier Street", 1915.

Ward, Margaret. *The women of Belfast: Cumann na mBan - Easter Week and after*. Belfast: Ag Fiore na Poblachta, [2016]. Written with access to the Collection prior to its deposit at Queen's University Belfast.

MS 65/13 National Archive documents

Photocopy of various documents relating to Elizabeth Corr's application for a military service pension.



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