

Schools' Collection material from Co. Galway now available on www.duchas.ie

Handwritten folklore and local history from Co. Galway is now available to read on www.duchas.ie.

The Schools' Collection, an important component of the National Folklore Collection, contains the folklore material recorded by pupils between 1937 and 1939. It is the compilation of over 500,000 pages of material recorded by around 50,000 pupils in more than 5,000 schools in the 26 counties.

A significant portion of the Schools' Collection will be published online in a new repository of Irish folklore, duchas.ie, before the end of 2016. Folklore material from Dublin, Mayo, Donegal and Waterford has already been made available on the site in the past year. duchas.ie is the result of a partnership, beginning in 2012, between the National Folklore Collection in UCD, Fiontar in DCU and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The site will be of interest to a great many Irish people and to members of the Irish diaspora. For specialist researchers in the fields of local history, archaeology, genealogy, linguistics, and a range of other disciplines, duchas.ie offers considerable research potential. The site can currently be searched by place or by person, and a search facility according to topic will be made available in the near future.

In late September 1935, Séamus Ó Duilearga, Honorary Director of the Irish Folklore Commission, spoke at a Galway branch meeting of the Irish National Teachers' Organisation. He described the Schools' Scheme and its importance in collecting folklore from Galway, as reported in *The Connaught Tribune* (19.10.1935): 'Galway was one of the most important parts of the country where folklore was concerned. Because of the fact that it contained a large Gaeltacht it was a reservoir of oral literature'.

Over 300 schools in Galway took part in the scheme and 84 large volumes of material were compiled. Approximately 42% of this material is in Irish.

The Minister of State for Gaeltacht Affairs, Joe McHugh, TD, said, 'This is yet another step in this innovative project as material relating to the traditional life of Galway in years past, and its Gaeltacht areas, will be made available to the general public. This new material will enable researchers and ordinary people alike to contrast life in the county over 80 years ago and life there now.'

The site duchas.ie is developed by Fiontar, the Irish-medium teaching and research unit in DCU that works through the medium of Irish, and the National Folklore Collection in UCD, one of the largest folklore collections in the world. The project is jointly financed by UCD and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht with support from the National Lottery.

The Digital Repository of Ireland acts in an advisory role in the work of duchas.ie and on standards and interoperability in digital archiving.

Note: From January 2015, the public will have the opportunity to participate in this project. Further information is available at duchas.ie/en/info/crowd or from eolas@duchas.ie.



An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

