

100,000 pages transcribed by Meitheal Dúchas.ie

Over 100,000 pages have been transcribed by the members of [Meitheal Dúchas.ie](http://Meitheal.Dúchas.ie) since the launch of the crowd-sourcing project in Spring 2015.

Material from the Schools' Collection, a valuable collection held by the National Folklore Collection, was first digitized as part of the dúchas.ie project. The public was invited to transcribe this material for the first time in February 2015, an invitation which was generously accepted. To date, 21% of the Irish language material and 23% of the English language material available on dúchas.ie has been voluntarily transcribed by c.2,000 members of the Meitheal, with the level of engagement continuing to grow.

Meitheal members are to be found in every part of the world from Ireland to North America to Australia. The most active transcribers since the launch of Meitheal Dúchas.ie are 'An Dothra Bheag' (6,242 pages), 'Rhiannon' (5,548), Scott Leminski (4,884) and students from Ohio State University (4,808), to whom we owe a special 'thank you' for the commitment they have shown to the project since it began 3 years ago.

Not only does the material in the Schools' Collection vary in subject matter, it also displays the impressive handwriting of schoolchildren in the 1930s, as well as providing an insight into the kind of language which was in use at the time - in both English and Irish. A number of examples of various Irish-language dialects which have waned or died off in the intervening years are available, those of Co. Clare, Co. Monaghan and Co. Louth, for example. The stories which are told in these dialects provide valuable linguistic evidence.

Members of the Meitheal need not worry about running out of material to transcribe as thousands of pages from the main collection of the National Folklore Collection will be made available on dúchas.ie and on Meitheal Dúchas.ie during 2018.

The Dúchas project is the result of a partnership, initiated in 2012, between the National Folklore Collection in UCD, one of the largest folklore collections in the world, UCD Digital Library and Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge, the Irish-medium teaching and research unit in DCU. The objective of the project is to digitize the National Folklore Collection and make it available to the public online. The project is co-funded by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, with support from the National Lottery and by University College Dublin. The project has also benefited from the financial support of the National Folklore Foundation.

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