

Archives and Manuscripts
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**Loyal National Repeal Association of Ireland Collection
1837-1864**

MS2007-019

Last updated: 2009 December

COLLECTION OVERVIEW:

AUTHOR: Loyal National Repeal Association of Ireland

SOURCE: Gift of Mary Slattery

COLLECTION #: MS2007-19

ACCESSION DATE: 2007 October 11

QUANTITY: .5 linear feet (2 boxes)

LOCATION: Level 2, Irish and Irish Americans

PROCESSED BY: Shelley Barber, 2010

LANGUAGE(S): English

RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS: No restrictions.

COPYRIGHT RESTRICTIONS: Though the copyright interests have not been transferred to Boston College, all of the items in the collection are in the public domain. For further information, see the section on copyright in the Burns Library's Rules for the Reading Room

ABSTRACT: Primarily ephemeral material relating to the operation of the Loyal National Repeal Association of Ireland.

PREFERRED CITATION: Identification of item, folder number, Loyal National Repeal Association of Ireland Collection, MS2007-19, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.

RELATED COLLECTIONS: Daniel O'Connell Collection, MS1995-011

PROCESSING NOTE: All of the material had been housed in a scrapbook which was disassembled for preservation purposes. Photocopies of the scrapbook pages were made to document original order. These are included in the collection.

PROVENANCE: The items in this collection were included in a scrapbook of material pertaining to the Loyal National Repeal Association of Ireland. Helen Landreth, curator of the Irish Collection at Boston College from 1948 to 1978, noted that the scrapbook was the gift of Mary Slattery, the proprietor of the Irish Book Shop of New York City. According to Landreth, the scrapbook was assembled by Thomas Mathew Ray, the Secretary of the Loyal National Repeal Association. Landreth bound the scrapbook pages, and the book was then cataloged and remained in the Irish Collection until being turned over to the Archives and Manuscripts Department in 2003.

HISTORICAL & BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Loyal National Repeal Association of Ireland (1840-1848)

Irish politician Daniel O'Connell (1775-1847), known as "The Liberator", was the leader of the movement for the repeal of the Act of Union (1800) between Great Britain and Ireland. Through his leadership, the membership of the Catholic Association, founded in 1823, was greatly expanded via the creation a level of membership affordable by Ireland's poorer classes. O'Connell's successful methods of mass political organization -- both in raising funds and engaging large numbers of supporters -- were also applied to the Loyal National Repeal Association, which he founded in 1841. Through a central administration in Dublin, the organization sought to demonstrate overwhelming popular support for Repeal to the British Government. O'Connell fostered mass participation in the organization at local and national levels through meetings, speeches, establishment of Repeal reading rooms throughout Ireland, and in fundraising and mobilization of the electorate. He declared 1843 "Repeal Year" and began a series of large-scale public demonstrations, popularly referred to as "monster meetings". The British Government banned a critical meeting at Clontarf, near Dublin, in October 1843 and arrested and imprisoned O'Connell and several colleagues for sedition. Upon his release the following year O'Connell tried to revive the Repeal campaign, but he was then in bad health and his efforts were overwhelmed by the economic and social catastrophe of the Great Famine.

Thomas Mathew Ray (1801-1881) was born in Dublin. He was early engaged with political work, serving as Secretary of the Dublin Trades Political Union. Ray was Secretary of Daniel O'Connell's Precursor Society, 1838-1840, and held the same post for the Loyal National Repeal Association throughout its existence, writing nearly all the association's correspondence. In 1842 he was a student at Gray's Inn. He was arrested and charged with sedition, along with O'Connell and several others in 1843. He was convicted, but the decision was reversed on appeal the following year. In 1865 Ray was appointed assistant Registrar of Deeds in Ireland and held that post until 1880. He died in Dublin January 5, 1881, and is buried at Glasnevin Cemetery.

Sources:

Boase, Frederic. *Modern English Biography, Vol. 3*. London: Frank Cass, 1965.

Connolly, S.J., ed. *Oxford Companion to Irish History*, 2nd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Crone, John S., ed. *Concise Dictionary of Irish Biography*. Dublin: The Talbot Press.

Fitzpatrick, William J. *History of the Dublin Catholic Cemeteries*. Dublin: 1900.

Hickey, D.J. and J.E. Doherty, eds. *New Dictionary of Irish History from 1800*, 2nd edition. Dublin: Gill & Macmillan, 2003

O'Connell, Maurice R., ed. *Correspondence of Daniel O'Connell. Vol. 5, 1833-1836*. Dublin: Irish University Press for the Irish Manuscripts Commission, 1972.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_Association

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Repeal_Association. accessed 12/2009.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

The collection includes blank membership cards, certificates, forms, tickets to events, etc., issued by the Loyal National Repeal Association of Ireland to its members. There are also a number of items of O'Connell memorabilia. The collection has been divided into three series: membership cards, tickets to events, and miscellaneous items.

SERIES LISTING:

- I. Membership Cards, 1837-1848
- II. Tickets, 1840-1845
- III. Miscellaneous Items, 1843-1864

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS:

SERIES I: Membership Cards, 1837-1848

Examples of cards, some bearing Ray's signature, that were designed to be issued to members of various political organizations, arranged chronologically.

SERIES II: Tickets, 1840-1845

Tickets issued by the Loyal National Repeal Association to various events (meetings, banquets, etc.), arranged chronologically.

SERIES III: Miscellaneous, 1843-1864

Ephemera of the Repeal Association and other material relating to the organization, including blank certificates, cards and forms, printed flyers, broadsides and letters.

INVENTORY AND CONTAINER LIST:

Box Folder Title, Date

Series I: Membership Cards, 1837-1848

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|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Membership Cards, 1837-1838
General Association of Ireland, 1837
Central Registration Board for Ireland, 1838
Precursor Society (two copies), 1838 |
| 1 | 2 | National Association (three versions), 1840 |
| 1 | 3 | Loyal National Repeal Association of Ireland, 1840-1848
Loyal National Repeal Association of Ireland, 1840
Loyal National Repeal Association of Ireland, 1841
Loyal National Repeal Association of Ireland, 1842
Loyal National Repeal Association of Ireland (small version), 1843
Loyal National Repeal Association of Ireland (large version), 1843
Loyal National Repeal Association of Ireland (two copies), 1844
Loyal National Repeal Association of Ireland, 1845
Loyal National Repeal Association of Ireland (two copies), 1845
Loyal National Repeal Association of Ireland (two copies), 1846
Loyal National Repeal Association of Ireland, 1847
Loyal National Repeal Association of Ireland, 1847-1848
Loyal National Repeal Association of Ireland, Lady's Card, 1847-1848
Loyal National Repeal Association of Ireland, 1848 |
| 1 | 4 | Volunteers of 1782 Revived, 1841-1844
Volunteers of 1782 Revived, 1841-1843
Volunteers of 1782 Revived, 1843
Volunteers of 1782 Revived, 1843
Volunteers of 1782 Revived, 1844 |

Series II: Tickets, 1840-1845

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 5 | Tickets, 1840-1845
Reform Registry Meeting, January 10, 1840
Mullaghmast Meeting, platform, October 1, 1843
Banquet following Mullaghmast Meeting, October 1, 1843
Banquet following Clontarf meeting, October 9, 1843
Conciliation Hall admittance, 1843
Levee, May 30, 1845, Lady's Ticket
Levee, May 30, 1845, Gentleman's Ticket
'82 Club, Lady's Ticket, November 27, 1845
Eighty-two Club, Member's Dinner Ticket, November 27, 1845 |
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Series III: Miscellaneous (1839-1864)

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|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6 | Lithographic copy of a letter written by Daniel O'Connell, 1839 |
| 1 | 7 | Lithographic copy of a letter written by Daniel O'Connell, 1840 |
| 1 | 8 | Conciliation Hall cornerstone text (two pieces) |

- 2 1 O'Connell's first proclamation as Lord Mayor of Dublin
- 2 1 Repeal Warden Certificate (two items), 1841
- 2 1 Repeal Warden Certificate, 1843
- 1 9 Repeal Warden Certificate (one item), 1844-1848
- 2 1 Rules for the establishment of Repeal Reading Rooms, broadside
- 1 10 Form upon which Repeal Wardens were to record payment by members of the Association in weekly subscriptions of one penny per week for twelve weeks. (two copies)
- 1 11 "O'Connell's Police" card. According to Ray, one of those worn on the hats of Repeal Wardens who were deputized to keep order on the platform and in the pavilion at the Mullaghmast Meeting, October 1, 1843.
- 1 12 Repeal Voucher card
- 1 13 Parliamentary Elector Card, 1845
- 2 1 Copy of a specially printed map of Ireland that was issued to Association members who raised 5 pounds for the Repeal Fund. Issued January 12, 1846
- 1 14 Cinderella (non-postage) stamps in various designs representing O'Connell and/or the Repeal Association
- 2 1 Broadside "To the Right Honorable...."
- 1 15 Certificate made to accompany presentation copies of Daniel O'Connell's book *Memoir of Ireland Native and Saxon*.
- 1 16 Letter fragment (address leaf), addressed to T.M. Ray from Daniel O'Connell, postmarked February 20th and 21st, 1844
- 1 17 Derrynane Abbey lithograph
- 1 18 Flyer advertising the collection of funds on March 17, 1864, for the statue of O'Connell by John Hogan (1800-1858), in Dublin's City Hall
- 1 19 Scrapbook pieces (one page including the scrapbook's former call number; cards with typewritten information about the scrapbook)
- 1 20 Photocopies of scrapbook pages prior to disassembly