

BOLTON LIBRARY
COUNTY TIPPERARY





BOLTON LIBRARY COUNTY TIPPERARY

CONSERVATION PLAN

Prepared by

Mr Alastair Coey, Dr Brian Turner and Ms Niamh McGuinne

AN
CHOMHAIRLE
OIDHREACHTA



THE
HERITAGE
COUNCIL

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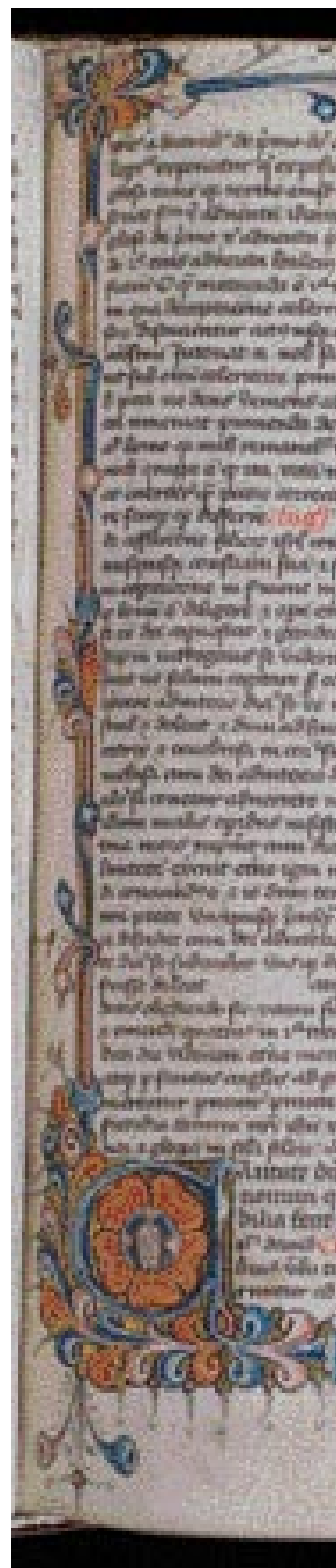
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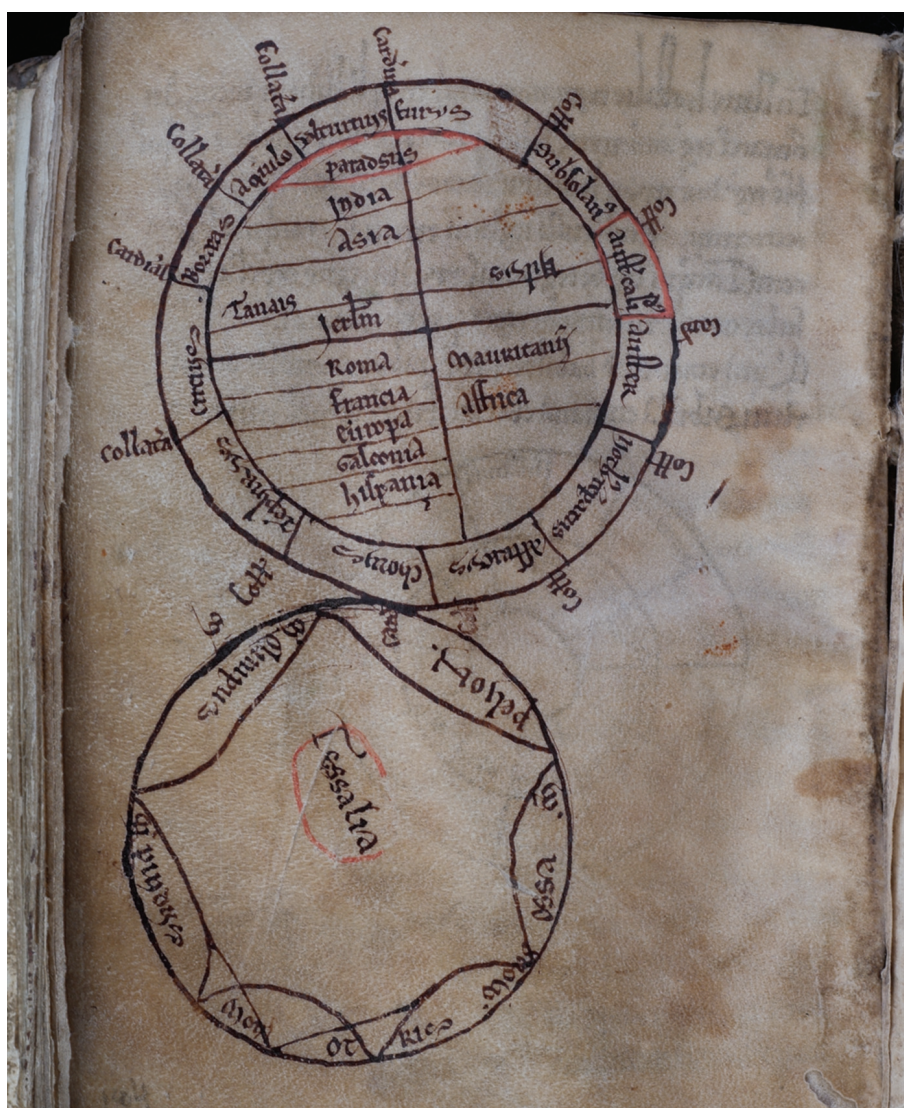


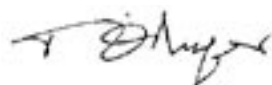
Plate 1: Encyclopaedia of Mediaeval Knowledge; 13th century English manuscript on vellum

FOREWORD

The Bolton Library, Cashel, is one of Ireland's great, but little known treasures.

The bequest of Archbishop Bolton, it provides a rich insight into the cultured milieu in which such a patron lived and the wide breadth of his learning and aspirations. It complements other such collections in Ireland, from the same period, such as the Worth Library and Marsh's Library, both in Dublin. The donation of the Bolton Library to subsequent generations provided a legacy beyond price.

The beauty and craftsmanship of individual volumes is remarkable, a tribute to skill and refined taste. That the collection houses a wealth of such publications is both an enormous benefit and a challenge. Fine books require fine care and storage conditions; otherwise their beauty and benefit is compromised beyond repair. This Conservation Plan reinforces the significance of the Bolton Library and is a call to action to safeguard its future and benefit to all, the local community in particular. The 'Plan' not only acknowledges the collection but its physical location in an historic building and complex at the heart of one of Ireland's most historic towns. The 'Plan' is an indication of the Heritage Council's support for the caring of collections and its wish to safeguard and promote such collections for the enjoyment of all for generations to come.



Dr Tom O'Dwyer
Chairperson



Michael Starrett
Chief Executive

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank all those who contributed to the preparation of this Conservation Plan for 'the place known as the Bolton Library'.

The Plan was commissioned by the Heritage Council, in partnership with the Bolton Library, to develop and propose policies for the long-term care and management of the Library and to increase understanding of its historic importance in the town of Cashel and the wider national and international context.

The current Dean of Cashel, in spite of the heavy demands placed upon his time and energies by the pastoral duties that are his vocation, has accepted his responsibilities for the collection with diligence and fortitude. In recent years, assistance from the University of Limerick, encouraged by George Cunningham, Chairman of the University's Library Development Committee and of the Bolton Library Management Board, has been vital, as has been the work of Ken Bergin, the University's Special Collections Librarian. The dedicated help of volunteer and short-term workers has helped ensure that the collection remained accessible.

We appreciated the advice and assistance of Ms Susie Bioletti of the Conservation Department of Trinity College Library, Dublin; Mr Jack Gamble of Emerald Isle Books, Belfast; Dr Muriel McCarthy, Keeper of Marsh's Library, Dublin; Dr Raymond Refaüssé, Librarian and Archivist of the Representative Church Body, Dublin; and Mr Gordon Wheeler, former Librarian of the Irish Collections at Queen's University Library, Belfast. Mr Eoin Stephenson of the University of Limerick's Photographic Unit provided photographs of specimens in the Bolton Collection.

We are grateful for the information and knowledge about the Library that was generously and patiently provided by Mrs Pamela Ching (part-time assistant in the Bolton Library); for practical help, including the timely provision of ladders on site by Mr Alfie Carter (member of the Cathedral congregation); and for the contributions made at and after the public meeting held in Cashel to discuss the future of the Library, particularly by Mr Martin Maher, County Librarian of Tipperary, and Mr Charles Hazell. We also appreciate the encouragement expressed by Mr Seamus Maher, Town Clerk of Cashel.

THE STEERING GROUP

The members of the Steering Group established by the Heritage Council to formulate the Conservation Plan were:

- Ms Mary Hanna, architect, The Heritage Council (2004/05)
- Very Rev Dr Philip Knowles, Dean of Cashel
- Dr Hugh Maguire, The Heritage Council (2005/06)
- Mr Colm Murray, The Heritage Council (2005/06)

Representing the University of Limerick:

- Mr George Cunningham, Chairman, Library Development Committee
- Ms Gobnait O'Riordan, Director, Library and Information Services
- Mr Ken Bergin, Special Collections Librarian



Representing the Office of Public Works:

- Mr Dermot Burke
- Mr Martin Luby

At the final meeting of the Steering Group, the Heritage Council was represented by Mr Colm Murray, Architecture Officer and Dr Hugh Maguire, Museums and Archives Officer. The then Bishop of Cashel and Ossory, the Right Reverend Peter Barrett and Dr Raymond Refaüssé also attended the final meeting.

THE CONSULTANCY TEAM

The team leader was Mr Alastair Coey (conservation architect specialising in the historic built environment), assisted by Dr Brian Turner (historian), with further specialist advice contributed by Ms Niamh McGuinne (paper conservation specialist).
May 2007

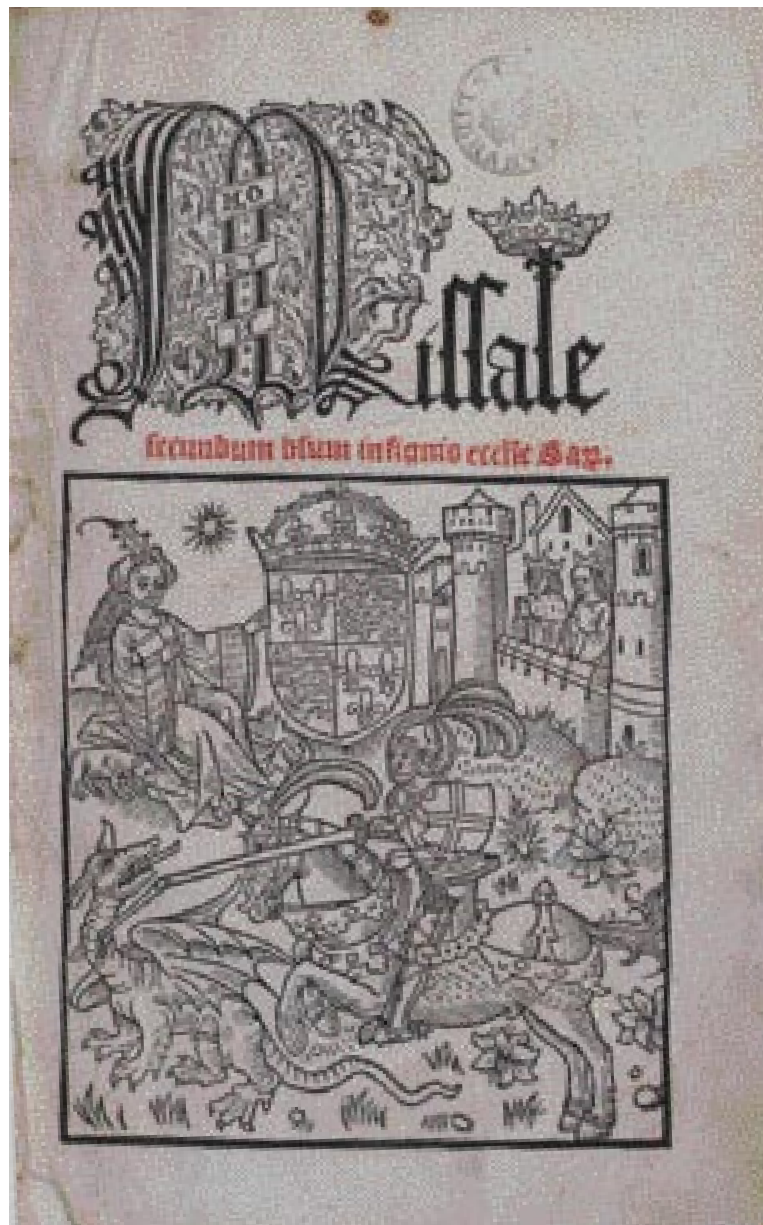


Plate 2: Missal; use of Sarum, 1515

1. INTRODUCTION

Imagine the Rock of Cashel with its famous skyline and its dramatic history rising out of the plains of Tipperary. For many people all over the world, the image represents Ireland. Imagine also today's town of Cashel, at the foot of the Rock, with its people and buildings and streets shaped and carried into the twenty-first century by their own unique history.

Tucked into the centre of the town of Cashel is a secluded green space. Here, bounded by medieval walls with effigies of knights and ladies and packed with human history, is the Cathedral of St John the Baptist and St Patrick's Rock.

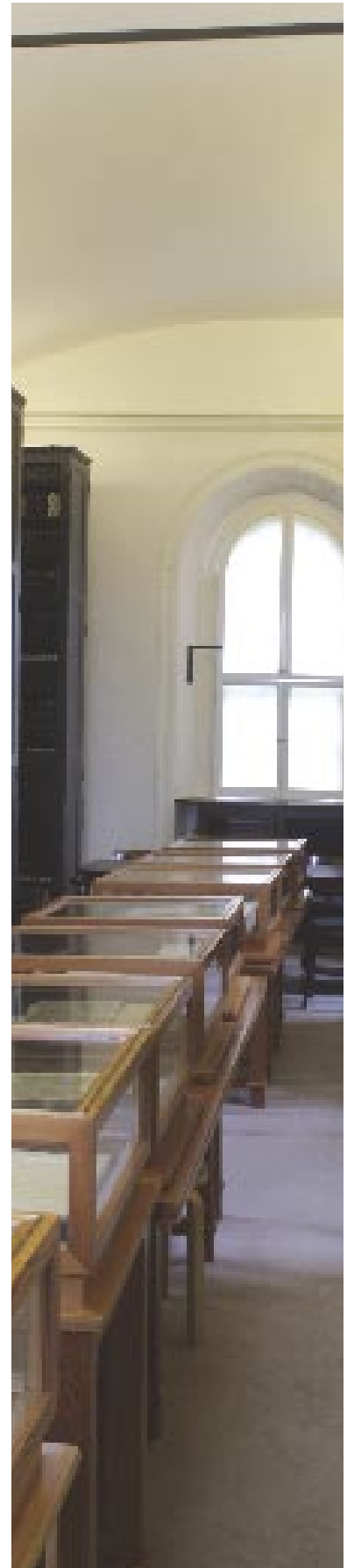
Here too, remarkably, is one of the most noteworthy scholars' libraries in the country. Housed in its own Georgian building, an early work of the distinguished Tipperary-born architect William Tinsley, the Bolton Library is a treasure. Stemming from the libraries of two Irish archbishops, William King and Theophilus Bolton, its collections reach from Cashel into the intellectual centre of Europe from the Renaissance onwards and back again to the fields and farms of Munster. Rare and beautiful books tell us of the revolution in human thought and communication that followed from the invention of printing. The quest for truth and skill in religion, science, art and politics is documented in many pictures and languages in Cashel, in works whose subjects range from architecture to law to mathematics, medicine and travel.

What if such a place lay unrecognised by its community and country? What if the lively gifts it could offer to inspire and educate children and adults were unopened. What if its friends gave up the struggle to save the inheritance that has been passed to us, and what if it departed to find recognition in a generous home across the ocean?

The problems experienced by the Bolton Library are by no means unique among great book collections elsewhere in Ireland and overseas. The Bolton Library has no money. The love of its friends is not enough. Its collections are threatened by the most basic dangers of damp and decay. Poor environmental conditions, particularly high humidity, cause the books and documents to continue to deteriorate, and an acute lack of resources means that the Library's continued viability is precarious in the extreme. Its potential for Cashel and the country is unrealised.

This Conservation Plan draws attention to part of our common heritage in order to create a springboard from which its future will be secured for the enjoyment and benefit of generations to come. The Plan proposes policies which will not only redress the current unsatisfactory position but also place the Library on a secure footing which will achieve the conservation standards the collection deserves, facilitate academic access, and provide improved interpretation of its value for all our people and their visitors. Imagine that!

Your attention and support are invited.



2. CASHEL

"Secular and ecclesiastical history combine to make Cashel one of the most celebrated places in Munster."

The Shell Guide to Ireland



Plate 3: View of the Rock of Cashel

The intrinsic value of the scholars' library – the Bolton Library – would follow it anywhere, but the fact that it is associated with Cashel, County Tipperary, creates considerable potential for developing linkages which emphasise the interest and significance of the whole place.

From the fourth century, 'Cashel of the kings', on St Patrick's Rock, developed as the royal seat of the Eoghanacht over-kings of Munster, several of whom were also churchmen, making the place an important Christian centre. In the late tenth century, the Eoghanacht dynasty (Mac Carthy) was displaced by Brian Boru, ancestor of the O'Briens of Thomond, who subsequently became overlord or 'high-king' of the whole of Ireland before his death at the Battle of Clontarf in 1014.

In 1101, the Synod of Cashel introduced the European ecclesiastical reform movement to Ireland and King Muirchertach Ua Briain gave Cashel to the Church. As diocesan organisation emerged, Cashel formally became, with Armagh, head of one of the first two archdioceses in the country. The site has seen many building phases; the current dramatic ruins on the Rock of Cashel consist of a round tower, the twelfth-century Romanesque Cormac's Chapel, the remains of the thirteenth-century cathedral with fifteenth-century fortification, and some fifteenth-century domestic building.

The cathedral on the Rock was derelict from the time of its burning by Murrough O'Brien, Lord Inchiquin, in 1647, until it was re-edified for Anglican worship in 1686. When Theophilus Bolton became Church of Ireland Archbishop in 1729, he again repaired the cathedral for use, but it was abandoned by his successor

in 1749. The Rock of Cashel, with its evocative ruins and associations, together with magnificent views over the fertile land of Tipperary, now attracts more tourists (over 250,000 in 2006) than any other built heritage site in the Republic of Ireland.

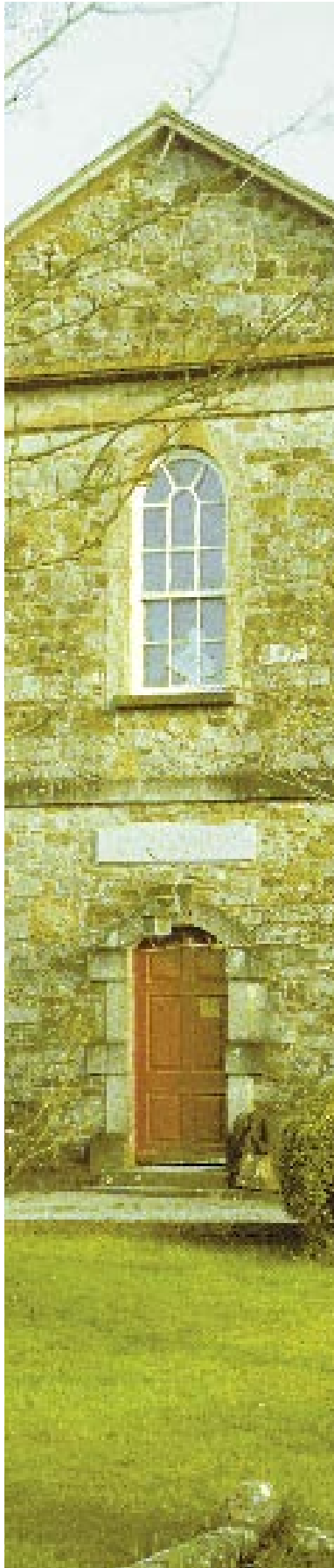
After their initial conquest of Ireland in 1169, the Cambro-Normans were quickly attracted to Cashel, both by its ecclesiastical prestige and its good land. A planned urban settlement, which was enclosed by a town wall in the early fourteenth century, grew up adjacent to the Rock. The existing remains of the Cistercian Hore Abbey, just west of the Rock, and the Dominican friary in Moor Lane date from the thirteenth century. Remnants of building from the late medieval period onwards remain throughout the core of the town but most of the central building stock is of the eighteenth and, mainly, nineteenth centuries.

It is likely that the basic economic activity in and around Cashel has always been as it is now – a market centre for the surrounding agricultural area. Its prestige derived, as it still does for tourists, from the signs of its ecclesiastical glories. Today Cashel has a population of around 2,500 and a history which brings many people to the Rock, but the possible attractions in the town itself are underestimated and underused.

Following the abandonment of the ancient cathedral site on the Rock, the Church of Ireland Cathedral of St John the Baptist was built in an angle of the early fourteenth-century town walls of Cashel, on the site of the medieval church of St John. It is in the grounds of this Georgian cathedral that the Chapter House, which now houses the Bolton Library, was built in the 1830s.



Plate 4: Map of historic areas of Cashel



3. THE BOLTON LIBRARY

DEFINITION

The GPA-Bolton Library is the name now cut in stone above the doorway of the nineteenth-century chapter house that stands in the precincts of the Church of Ireland cathedral in Cashel. The name refers both to the building and its contents. In the past the Library had been described as Cashel Diocesan Library, but it is essentially a scholar's library. The importance of the Bolton Library lies in the contents of the library of Archbishop Theophilus Bolton (1678–1744), which he willed to his successors in the See of Cashel and which he wished to remain in Cashel itself. The term 'the Bolton Library' is applied interchangeably to the building and all its contents and to the books of Archbishop Bolton, which form the dominant, but not sole, element of the Library's collection.

For the purposes of this Plan, 'the Bolton Library' means the books, maps, and any other material which derives principally from the library of the eighteenth-century archbishop. The Library building means the building and its facilities.

CONTEXT

In the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, social conditions in Ireland became more stable after the severe military conflicts of the previous hundred years. It began to be possible for the established Church of Ireland to consolidate its diocesan organisation and, as part of the Protestant Ascendancy, to build the distinctive society of eighteenth-century Ireland, thriving under its own parliament in Dublin. It took some time for all bishops to reside within their own sees, but two of those who did so and who regarded themselves as representing an Irish rather than an English interest were the originators of the Bolton Library of books, prints and maps, which is one of the national treasures of Ireland.

William King (1650–1729) was born in County Antrim and became Bishop of Derry in 1691, just as the turbulent years of the Williamite wars were ending. He was Archbishop of Dublin and one of the most influential people in the country from 1703 until his death. He was a thinker, author and scholar in his own right, and throughout his life sought to collect a library which would encompass as much as possible of humanity's knowledge of the world. As Bishop of Derry, William King made substantial gifts of books which survive as part of the Diocesan Library of Derry and Raphoe. Following his translation to the Archbishopric of Dublin, he continued to build up what has been described as one of the most important private libraries in Great Britain or Ireland. After his death, most of this library was acquired by one of his younger friends, Theophilus Bolton.

Theophilus Bolton was of the same cast of mind as William King. He was born in County Mayo and was identified with the 'Irish' wing of the Church. The Englishman Hugh Boulter, who became Protestant Archbishop of Armagh in 1724, once described Bolton as 'the most dangerous Irishman on the bench'. When Bolton was appointed Bishop of Clonfert in 1722, he immediately moved to reside in his diocese, where he displayed practical interest in the

improvement of land as well as of his clergy. The same characteristics were subsequently displayed as Bishop of Elphin and as Archbishop of Cashel, which he became in 1730. Soon after his arrival at Cashel, Bolton doubled the size of his own library by adding about 6,000 books from the collection of the recently deceased Archbishop King. The library was to be accommodated in his overall plans at Cashel, where he repaired the cathedral on the Rock and declared his commitment to the place by building a house for himself (now the Cashel Palace Hotel), designed by Sir Edward Lovett Pearce, the architect of the Parliament House in Dublin. Bolton's library was originally accommodated in a specially constructed two-storey building, which still survives, adjacent to the palace. This building has now been integrated into the modern hotel.

Archbishop Bolton's will expressed the clear intention that his books should be available to his successors and the clergy of the diocese, and that they should remain in Cashel.

'I leave my books in the library and palace at Cashel to my successors in the same see, and to the clergy of the diocese; my will and meaning being, that the said books should remain and continue in the said library for ever, for the use of my successors in the said see, and of the said clergy, and that none of them be removed from thence.' (From W.N. Osborough, *'On selling cathedral libraries'*. See bibliography.)

Specific misfortune and the inevitable passage of time and consequent change in attitudes and circumstances have meant that the Bolton Library has not had a smooth passage since the death of its creator. Periods of devoted attention from particular individuals with varying degrees of skill have alternated with times of misfortune, neglect and damage.



Plate 5: View of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Baptist and Saint Patrick's Rock, Cashel

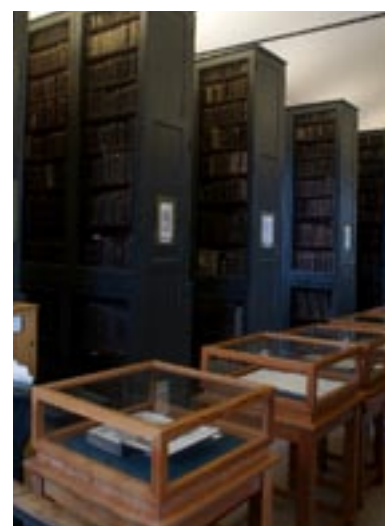


Plate 6: View of the shelves and display cases on the first floor of the library



Plate 8: View of the Cashel Palace Hotel, the former Archbishops' Palace



Plate 7: View from the stairs of the ground floor of the library

CHRONICLE

The history of the Bolton Library has been outlined by the Venerable and Very Reverend David Woodworth (1939–1994), Dean of Cashel, in *Cashel's Museum of Printing and Early Books* (Clonmel 1994). Particularly significant landmarks in that history include:

- 1798** Militia billeted in the bishop's palace misuse the Library and destroy some books.
- 1822** Rev Henry Cotton, formerly sub-librarian at the Bodleian Library, Oxford, was appointed as librarian, and was associated with Cashel for almost forty years.
- 1833** The Church Temporalities Act suppressed the Archbishopric of Cashel and necessitated the removal of the Bolton Library collection from the grounds of the palace.
- c.1835** Cotton organised the construction of a new Chapter House and Library in the grounds of the cathedral at Cashel, designed by the Clonmel architect, William Tinsley (1804–1885) who, among other things, remodelled the entire town of Cahir and later achieved further distinction in the United States. It has not been generally appreciated that Cashel has such an early demonstration of the work of this distinguished son of Tipperary.
- 1857** John Davis White was appointed to attend to the Library, which he did for almost forty years. A small museum, established in the Chapter House by his brother, the historian Newport B White, which included pieces of glass from the medieval cathedral, was dispersed and lost after his death.
- 1869** The Irish Church Act disestablished the Church of Ireland, much reducing its resources and leading to a long period of decline for the Library.
- 1873** The first printed *Catalogue of the Library of the Dean and Chapter of Cashel* was published.
- 1909** The post of 'Librarian' lapsed, and responsibility was 'assumed' by the Dean of Cashel. Soon afterwards some hundreds of books were sent on loan to Marsh's Library in Dublin and subsequently, in 1935, to the Church of Ireland Representative Church Body Library, also in Dublin.
- 1961** Dean Wolfe sought sponsorship for the restoration of the Library, and the books on loan in Dublin were returned. When funding proved insufficient, some hundreds of books were sold, mostly to the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington DC, and the money was apparently applied to external repairs.
- 1973** The *Catalogue of Cashel Diocesan Library*, which lists the books by author, was published in Boston.
- 1984** Dean Woodworth determined to restore the Library, which was, again, in a state of neglect and serious disrepair. With financial support from the American Irish Foundation, the GPA Group and the Smurfit Foundation, the interior of the building was radically altered to provide a small exhibition space with renewed furnishing and an attempt to provide better environmental conditions.

1986 The renamed GPA-Bolton Library was opened.

1990s Without revenue funding, the Library's debt grew alarmingly, forcing the sale of two significant works, which the Dean hoped would draw attention to its continuing perilous state. Despite the Dean's hard work and dedication, this did not happen.

1995 Dean Knowles, succeeding Dean Woodworth, found that hopes for the revival and funding of the Library through increased tourist interest were unfulfilled. He embraced the fledgling partnership with the University of Limerick, which had been initiated by George Cunningham, chairman of the University's Library Development Committee, in the previous year.

1996-7 Through the good offices of the President of the University of Limerick, the debt on the Library was wiped out by a private benefactor and professional assessments identified urgent problems to be solved. In the absence of funding, the Library remained open only through the operation of a FÁS employment scheme and through fund-raising by the Dean and a small group of volunteers.

1998 The Bishop of Cashel and the Dean and Chapter of the diocese devolved the management of the Library to a committee representative of the diocese, Cashel Heritage and Development Trust, and the University of Limerick. The University of Limerick agreed to provide technological, cataloguing and academic support for the collections.

2003 As a practical expression of the partnership between the Library and the University of Limerick, the University's Special Collections Librarian was allocated some time each week to carry out an assessment of the Bolton Library. With the help of FÁS employees and a volunteer, books affected by damp and mould had to be moved, dried, cleaned and put in order. Computerisation of the catalogue began in 2004, together with further cleaning and recording of the collection. Under current circumstances, many years will be required to complete this task.

2004 Finding itself without sufficient authority and resources to conserve, protect and promote what it believed to be internationally significant collections, the Management Board of the Library, including the Dean of Cashel and representatives of the University of Limerick, requested the Heritage Council to sponsor a Conservation Plan for 'the place known as the GPA-Bolton Library, Cashel, County Tipperary'.

2005 The Heritage Council approved funding to develop a Conservation Plan for adoption by a Steering Group from the Heritage Council, the Diocese of Cashel and Ossory, the University of Limerick and the Office of Public Works.

2007 The Conservation Plan was completed and published.



Plate 9: Archbishop William King (1650-1729)

4. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The [Bolton] collection contains many items of great rarity, at least fifty not recorded elsewhere in the world, and some 800 not recorded elsewhere in Ireland.

Directory of Rare Books and Special Collections (London 1997)

The academic and bibliographical significance of Archbishop Bolton's collection of books and maps has been assessed in, for example, the preface to the 1973 Catalogue of the Cashel Diocesan Library; by Robert S Matteson in his work on the collection of Archbishop William King (much of which is now in the Bolton Collection); and in various unpublished reports, the most recent of which is that by Professor Geraldine Sheridan and Dr Pádraig Lenihan of the University of Limerick in 2000. The most recent general survey of Church of Ireland Diocesan Libraries is Margaret Connolly's *A Plague of Books: The Dispersal and Disappearance of the Diocesan Libraries of the Church of Ireland*. (See supporting bibliography at the end of this Plan.)

The Bolton Library building is of exceptional significance and requires conservation and use in the public interest because:

1. It houses the Bolton Library collection of 12,000 early printed books and maps, together with manuscripts and prints, and is one of the most substantial collections of its kind in Ireland. It was the personal library of Theophilus Bolton (1678–1744), Church of Ireland Archbishop of Cashel.
2. The Bolton Library contains rare works dating from the thirteenth to the eighteenth century. The works represent an important element of European intellectual history in subjects as diverse as theology, the history of science and technology, medicine, political, military, and legal history. The collection of incunabulae, dating from before 1500, and other rare editions and fine bindings of books, maps and prints illustrate the history of printing in an international context. The following selection of works may suggest something of the range and interest of the collection: *The Nuremburg Chronicle* of 1493; work by Chaucer printed by Caxton; a book on ecclesiastical law bearing the arms of Catherine of Aragon, first Queen of the English King Henry VIII; *Quattro Libri dell'Architettura* (Venice 1616) by Andrea Palladio (1508–1580), described as the single most influential architectural work of the early modern period; twenty-four works by Robert Boyle (1627–1691) of Lismore, the pioneering scientist of the seventeenth century; and an exceptionally rare Proclamation from the Confederate Catholics of Ireland, printed at Kilkenny in 1648.
3. The Bolton Collection is rare in Ireland as a substantial surviving formal corpus of knowledge assembled in the early eighteenth century.
4. Archbishop Bolton died in 1744. In his will he made it clear that he wished his library to stay in Cashel. It is unusual for such an internationally significant collection to exist outside a large city or ancient university. Cashel is privileged to have it, particularly in the context of its own long history of political and religious importance, most obviously represented today by the Rock of Cashel, with its dramatic collection of medieval monuments.

5. Besides its international connections, history links the Library with the Rock of Cashel and its ruined Gothic cathedral, as well as to the current Cathedral of St John the Baptist and St Patrick's Rock and the Archbishop's Palace (now the Cashel Palace Hotel in the centre of the town) built by Theophilus Bolton.
6. The cathedral precinct and the Rock of Cashel are by far the two largest upstanding sites identified as archaeological assets in Cashel (*Cashel Town and Its Environs Development Plan 2003–2009*).
7. In addition to the Bolton Collection, the Library houses important material of interest to family and local historians, such as the John Davis White Papers and the Looney Collection of books and documents.
8. The Bolton Library and other material is housed in a purpose-built two-storey chapter house, built c.1835, which is part of the attractive and historic walled cathedral precinct in Cashel. The area is of archaeological interest and has the stimulation provided by the monuments, memorials and human stories which attach to any such historic building and graveyard.

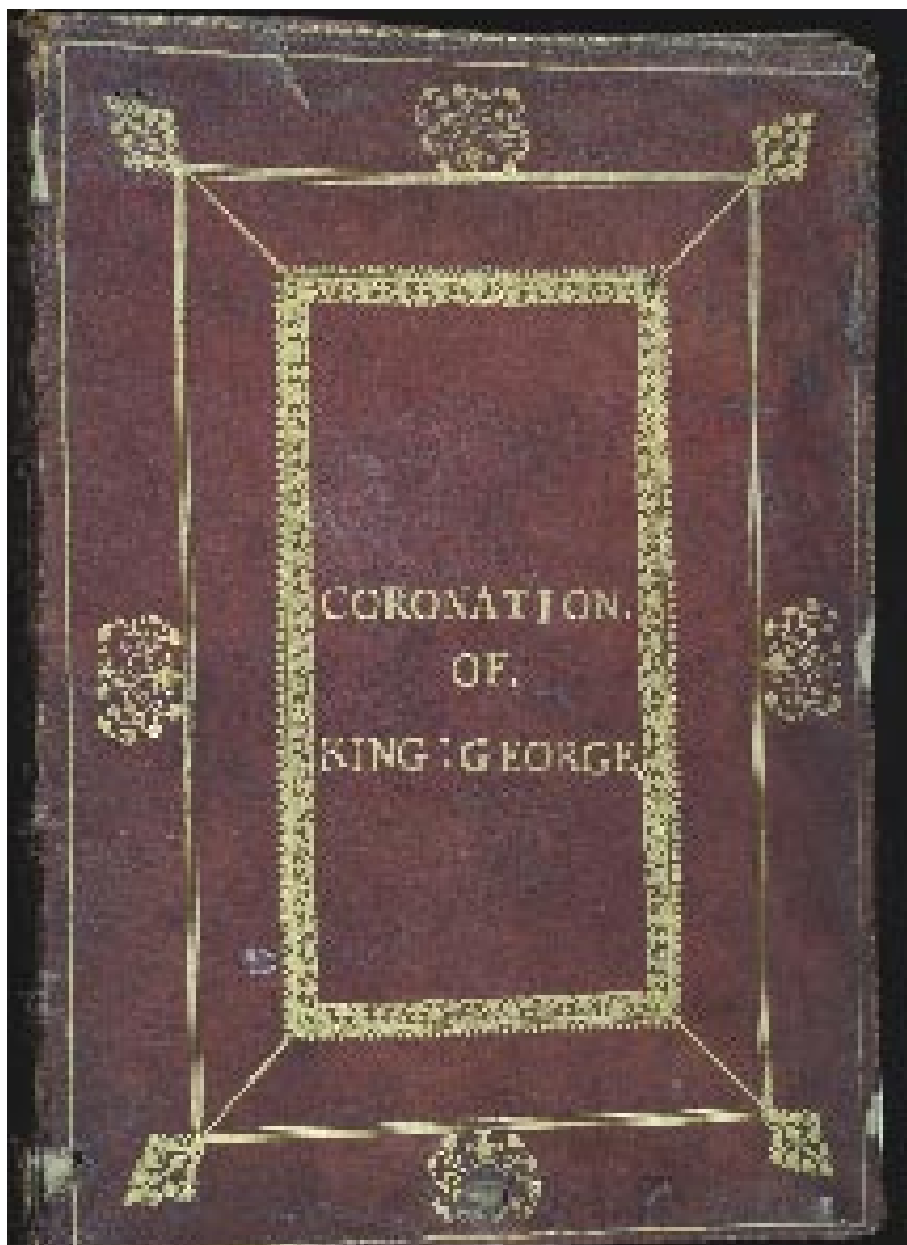


Plate 10: William Hawkins; Coronation of King George, 1714

5. THREATS TO SIGNIFICANCE

The primary threat to the Bolton Library is the lack of resources to protect and care for the collections and the building. First amongst its requirements is a dynamic structure of governance, without which other resources cannot be properly applied or directed. A series of expert reports have already recommended actions, not all of which required substantial expenditure but which, almost invariably, have not been carried out.

The lack of resources is a result of the historical process by which the Library has been inherited by the Church of Ireland without any means to maintain or develop it. Both economic reality and the priorities of the modern church dictate that it cannot seek to do so on its own.



Plate 11: A close-up view of a deteriorating binding on a work shelved on the first floor.

This lack of resources has consequently led to unsatisfactory environmental conditions, unrealistic staffing, inadequate security, and lack of curatorial policy and documentation. All these threaten the survival of the collections and inhibit their positive public use and development.

The simple passage of time reveals the Bolton Library as a significant cultural resource in an Irish and international context. Lack of recognition has meant that it is not yet supported and developed for public benefit by the appropriate agencies, such as the State.

Plate 12: View of deteriorating bindings of books shelved on the first floor of the library



6. VISION

The objectives of the Management Board of the Bolton Library and of the Heritage Council in commissioning this Conservation Plan can be best achieved by seeing the Bolton Library not in isolation but as part of the whole cathedral precinct. This attractive walled green space, with its medieval memorials and Georgian buildings, is a significant and under-rated main zone of archaeological importance and architectural and historic interest in Cashel.

Currently, the site is not realising its potential, either for the Church of Ireland or for the community as a whole. The Rock of Cashel is the most visited heritage site in Ireland, with more than 250,000 visitors in 2006. In the same year, the Bolton Library recorded 532 visitors.

If suitable management agreements and sufficient funding can be secured, a real opportunity exists for the cathedral precinct, using the prestige associated with the Bolton Library, to have a sustainable future in Cashel and contribute to the welfare of the community. By interpreting the whole site, bounded by the medieval town walls with thirteenth-century stone effigies linking to the Norman invasion of Ireland, the Georgian cathedral, the churchyard and all their associated history, the attraction of the town of Cashel as a destination would be enhanced and would help to relieve excessive visitor pressure on the Rock of Cashel. This could be of economic benefit to local people by broadening the appeal and extending the stay of visitors, many of whom might previously have simply visited the Rock without appreciating anything of the town itself.

Positive action can be taken by establishing the Bolton Library building as a research library and repository open only for specific purposes and by creating a complementary interpretative exhibition in the cathedral or other suitable location in or around Cashel. In this way, staff resources will not be split between two buildings open to the public, and guidance can be provided for those who want to visit the cathedral. Other suggestions have been made for the location of an interpretative exhibition. These remain to be explored. A guidance point and small shop, carefully designed to respect the principal functions of the cathedral or other location, would also provide security and income.

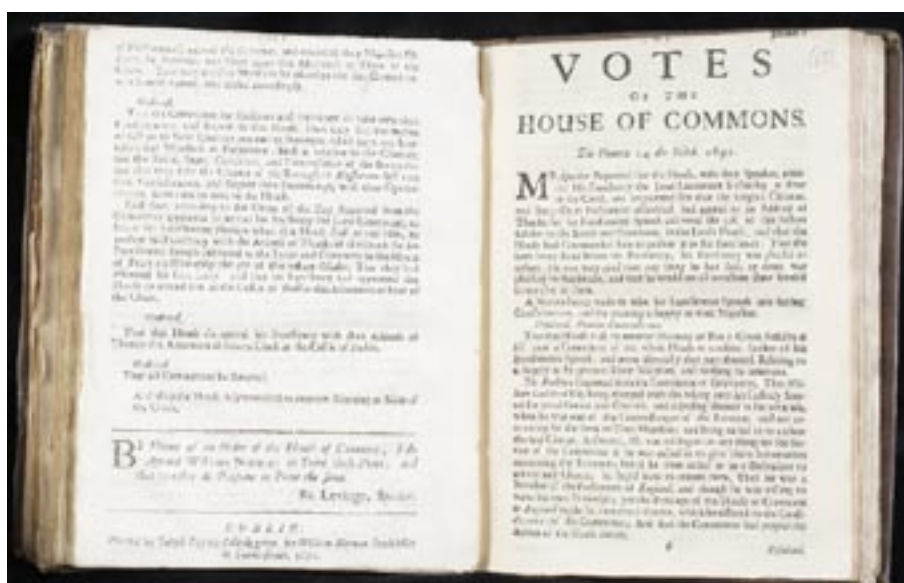


Plate 13: Votes of the House of Commons in Ireland, 1692

7. OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN

The brief for this Conservation Plan, as drawn up by the Heritage Council in partnership with the Bolton Library, states the objectives of the Plan to be:

- a) *To develop policies and priorities for the long-term care, conservation and management of the Library, its collection and its building;*
- b) *To propose policies which will increase the understanding of the Library and its historic importance in the town of Cashel and the wider national and international context.*

Under the heading of 'Context', the brief further states that:

The owners and custodians have now identified the need to bring the Library up to modern standards, both as a research facility and to establish its importance as a visitor resource in the wider context of the historic town of Cashel and the Library's historic connections with the internationally significant monument which is the Rock of Cashel.

This brief is interpreted as meaning that policies must be directed to curating and managing the Bolton Library to the standards required to ensure the preservation, conservation and security of the collection and its use for research in Cashel. The brief further requires that the Library be developed as a visitor resource which relates to the wider historic context of Cashel and the Rock.

The above interpretation presupposes the agreement of the relevant Church of Ireland authorities that they will not move the collections elsewhere nor dispose of them in order to convert their value into money to be devoted to other purposes.

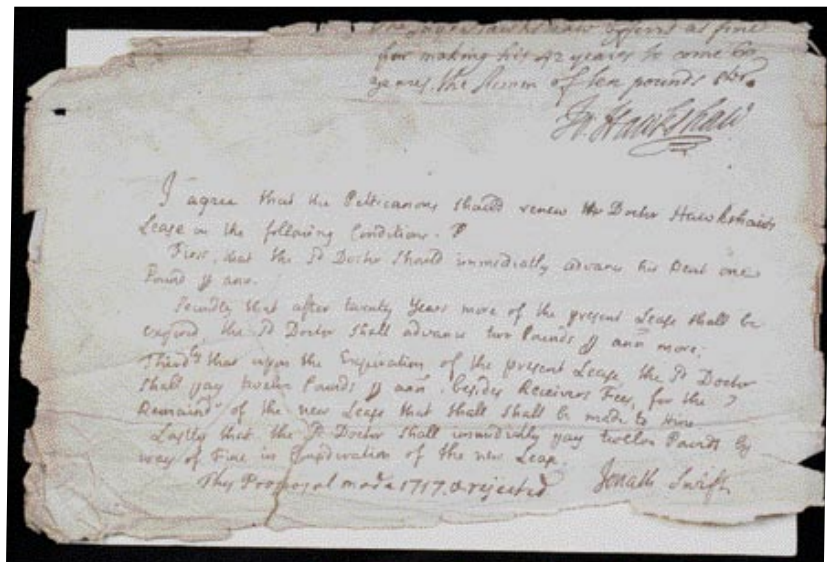


Plate 14: Jonathan Swift; Manuscript letter, 1717

8. POLICIES FOR LONG-TERM CARE, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

EXPLANATION

The purpose of the conservation policies in this document is to provide a guide for the future development and management of the Bolton Library, taking into account practical requirements for use as well as the retention of significance.

The policies are framed to:

- be flexible enough to facilitate the continued use of the place;
- retain or complement the character and quality of the existing setting when planning repairs, adaptations or development;
- identify potential future patterns of development;
- emphasise the need to include conservation advice within the decision-making process of future developments.

The recommended policies are set out in italics. They are preceded by the information on which the policies are based. Policies should only be read in conjunction with the associated text as this will make the context clear and help interpretation.

This first section covers policies for the care of the collections.

THE BOLTON LIBRARY

The most pressing problem of governance for the Bolton Library has been the lack of a continuing body of trustees whose primary concern is the interests of the Library and which has the authority and resources to attend to those interests.

Lack of clarity about trusteeship and legal title to the collections and lack of provision for qualified curatorship and management have made it impossible for the Management Board to address seriously the responsibilities which follow from ownership of the Bolton Library.

The Bolton Library, while it owes its existence and preservation to the Church of Ireland, cannot now, as a specialist academic library and museum, expect to be a high priority when viewed in the context of the primary imperatives of the Church.

Agreement between the United Dioceses of Cashel and Ossory and the University of Limerick Library to create a voluntary Board of Management has brought valuable and much appreciated professional expertise and support from the university. Nevertheless, the Board has found that it still has insufficient authority and resources to effect required change.

Policy 1: The ownership of the collections of the Bolton Library should be clearly established, taking care to distinguish the specific archives of the Church of Ireland (e.g. Parish registers) from those for which sole ownership by the Church is not necessarily required.

Policy 2: A Trust should be established, principally representative of the United Dioceses of Cashel and Ossory and the University of Limerick, with other nominees as appropriate, in relation to funding and other arrangements. The number of trustees should be limited to, say, nine. The Bishop of Cashel and Ossory, or his nominee, should, *ex officio*, be one of the trustees, together with the Librarian of the University of Limerick, the Tipperary County Librarian, and a person with expert knowledge of the curatorial and exhibition functions of museums.

Policy 3: Following the establishment of the Trust, ownership of the Bolton Collection, and such other material as may be decided, should be transferred to this Trust, which should then seek the necessary funding arrangements for it to operate.

Since the post of Librarian lapsed in 1909, custodianship of the Bolton Library is passed, *ex officio*, to each successive Dean of Cashel who, in addition to his duties as Dean, currently has sole pastoral responsibility for five parishes as well as other church duties. The Library has no regular financial income of any consequence. There is no reason to suppose that any incumbent Dean should have either the time or the required skills to manage or curate the Library. This is unreasonable in principle, unfair in practice, and unsustainable. It is essential to recognise that dedicated full-time staffing is required to fulfil the purposes of this Plan.

Policy 4: Agreement shall be sought to employ, possibly through the University of Limerick Library, sufficient staff to maintain the renewed Bolton Library building or other identified suitable venue as a research facility, supported by a public exhibition in the cathedral or other appropriate location. This will require the appointment of a suitably qualified curator/manager, with support staff, responsible for the day-to-day operation of the library and exhibition, and for executing policy, reporting to regular meetings of the trustees.



Plate 15 : View of one of the shelves on the first floor of the Bolton library

THE COLLECTION

The environment in the Bolton Library is generally cold, damp and subject to local fluctuation, and such environmental control systems as exist in the building are neither used nor maintained. The Paper Conservation Report prepared by Niamh McGuinne to support this Plan (Appendix A) makes it clear that this deficiency is causing deterioration of books through mould growth and other factors.

Policy 5: Environmental control systems should be repaired or replaced as necessary, and ongoing conservation practices adopted, in accordance with the Paper Conservation Report.

Despite efforts to catalogue the Bolton Library over a long period, including substantial publication, there is still uncertainty about exactly what is in it, or in the rest of the building, together with its value and significance. Lack of space within the building makes it difficult to examine its contents with a view to assessing significance and improving organisation.

Apart from the vulnerability created by the environmental conditions, the collections, other than the Bolton Collection, are vulnerable to confusion, theft, misunderstanding and underestimation of their significance by the lack of any generally accepted system of curatorial documentation. Some evidence seems to suggest that lack of expertise and discontinuity of responsibility has also resulted in the loss of documentation.

Policy 6: A qualified curatorial consultant should be engaged for the specific purpose of undertaking an inventory and assessment of all the contents of the Bolton Library, in conjunction with the Special Collections Librarian of the University of Limerick, and to oversee the introduction of basic documentation, leading to informed recommendations as to curatorial policies.

Policy 7: Conventional accessioning, cataloguing and collection documentation systems should be introduced for all objects in the collections, managed and made accessible on computer, with appropriate backup.

The collections are rendered vulnerable by the lack of a Disaster Plan and of policies for collection, loan, exhibition or disposal.

A simple example of the difficulty caused by lack of policy and documentation procedures may be taken from the Tim Looney Collection of historical papers. This collection, which may well be significant, was apparently accepted by the Library on revocable loan in 1992. The Library has taken indefinite responsibility for something it does not own, for which no catalogue can be traced and which can be reclaimed. This does not accord with best practice in policy relating to accessions or loans.

Policy 8: Collection, loan, exhibition, and disposal policies, and a Disaster Plan, should be formally drawn up and agreed.

The use of a single small building with interconnected spaces for such varied purposes as storing valuable books (together with other organic and inorganic materials), office space, academic study facilities and public exhibition space which seeks to attract maximum throughput of visitors results in a set of

incompatible requirements which cannot produce the best conditions for the collections. For example, the use of storage areas for meetings can create fluctuations in heat and humidity and the boiling of kettles can generate additional water vapour; this situation is unacceptable.

Policy 9: *The internal building spaces of the Bolton Library require organisation directed towards minimising the possibility of incompatible functions or activities taking place in the same area.*

The Bolton Library is very fortunate in its current staff and in the support and goodwill it has received from the FÁS employment scheme, without which it could not have operated at all during the last few years. Nevertheless, the long-term operation of a building and collection of this significance by non-permanent staff who are responsible to a body other than the owners or trustees will produce risks associated with lack of continuity and lack of control over staff selection, security and training. Neither will it produce the conditions which should be expected by staff who are asked to take on the responsibilities involved.

Policy 10: *Proper management of the Bolton Library requires control, by those responsible for the Library, over the employment of appropriately qualified staff, and the provision of adequate conditions of work for such staff.*

All collections of this type need protection from vandalism and theft. Constant vigilance must identify security weaknesses and address them promptly and effectively.

The gate-lodge of the cathedral precinct offers the valuable security of a residence on site. Subject to the rights and circumstances of the current occupant and the diocesan authorities, further possibilities to increase security and service may exist in the future.

Policy 11: *The Bolton Library building should have appropriate alarm systems and procedures to provide protection for both collections and staff on a 24-hour basis.*

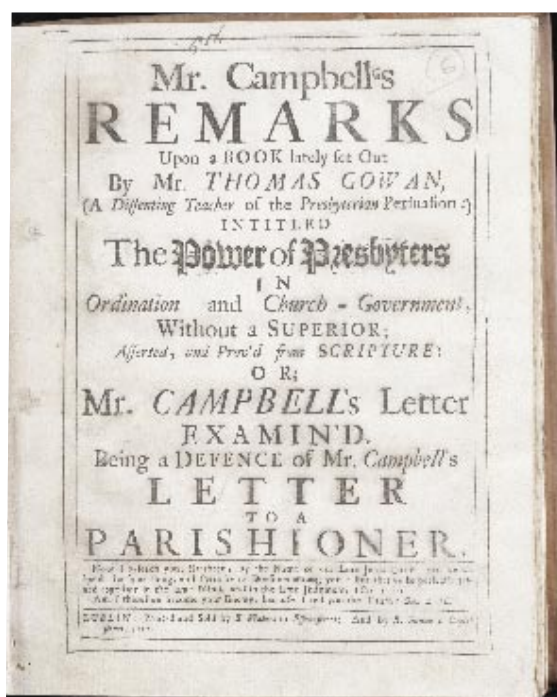


Plate 16: John Campbell; Mr Campbell's remarks upon a book, 1712

9. BUILDING CONSERVATION POLICIES

This section covers policies relating to general applications and to the library building.

The following definitions are taken from the 'Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance' (the Burra Charter):

Fabric means all physical material of the place.

Conservation means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance. It includes maintenance and may according to its circumstance include preservation, restoration, reconstruction and adaptation and will be commonly a combination of more than one of these.

Maintenance means the continuous protective care of the fabric, contents and setting of a place, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves restoration or reconstruction, and it should be treated accordingly.

Restoration means returning the *existing* fabric of a site to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the addition of new material.

Reconstruction means returning a place as nearly as possible to a known earlier state and is distinguished by the introduction of materials (new or old) into the fabric. This is not to be confused with either re-creation or conjectural reconstruction, which are outside the scope of the Charter.

Adaptation means modifying a place to suit proposed compatible uses.

Compatible use means a use which involves no change to the culturally significant fabric, changes which are substantially reversible, or changes which require a minimal impact.

The Burra Charter is a useful general guide to the conservation of places such as the Bolton Library. It provides a philosophical framework that can be flexible and recognises the need for the continued development that is associated with continuing occupation of a site. Adoption of the policies will help achieve consistency and continuity of approach.

POLICIES WITH GENERAL APPLICATION

Policy 12: *The future conservation and development of the Bolton Library should be guided by the principles of the Australia ICOMOS charter for the conservation of places of cultural significance (the Burra Charter) as revised in 1988.*

Policy 13: *The Statement of Significance and the assessments of individual items contained in more detail in this section shall be accepted as the basis for future planning and work.*

Policy 14: *The policies recommended and options discussed throughout this document shall be a guide to planning of future work on the site.*

Policy 15: *A note stating the existence of the Conservation Plan shall be appended to the existing statutory designations of the place. Declarations prepared under the planning legislation shall refer to the existence of the Plan.*



RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ASSESSED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AND POLICY

In general, the greater the level of significance of a part of the place, the more care is needed in planning its future treatment. The intention is to retain and, where appropriate, reinforce its significance – including character, quality and ability to reveal its past history.

Policy 16: *The more significant a fabric, relationship, space or vista, the more care should be taken in planning work which may affect it so that the work will not reduce, and may reinforce, its significance.*

Policy 17: *Where some reduction of significance is necessary to achieve overall conservation objectives, alternatives should be tested using a risk impact assessment methodology to reveal the least damaging approach and mitigate adverse impacts. In general, the alternative involving least alteration of the material artefacts and building fabric is preferable.*

CONTINUITY OF CONSERVATION ADVICE

Irreparable damage can be caused to historic buildings by inexperienced or inadequate professional advice. Implementation of the recommendations contained within this Conservation Plan can only be successfully achieved if progress is monitored on an ongoing basis by a group of individuals familiar with the policies and committed to their implementation. Specific conservation advice shall be provided by suitably qualified persons.

Policy 18: *Appropriate and experienced conservation advisers shall be consulted in the planning and execution of any proposals.*

RECORDING OF PROTECTED STRUCTURES PRIOR TO MAJOR ALTERATION OR INTERVENTION

Recording of protected structures prior to any work being carried out is a statutory obligation and should be conducted in line with best practice.

Policy 19: *The protected structure must be recorded before alteration or major intervention in accordance with legal requirements and procedures for the recording of Protected Structures set out by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Royal Institute of Architects in Ireland. Original records should be kept in a safe place.*

ARCHAEOLOGY

Any ground work proposed in areas identified as being of archaeological significance will require two months' notice prior to taking place, will be subject to the provisions of the National Monuments Act and should be carried out in such a way that any loss of archaeological significance is minimised and that any opportunities for learning more about the nature and extent of uses of the particular site are not lost.

Policy 20: Any ground work taking place in or around the building must comply with the legal requirements of the National Monuments Acts.

REVIEW OF POLICIES

The policies contained in this Conservation Plan will need adjustment to meet unforeseen circumstance and in response to developing needs.

Policy 21: This Plan, and the policies in it, shall be reviewed as the need arises, but not later than five years after their initial acceptance by the Steering Group. Procedures for review mechanisms should be established by the bodies responsible for the implementation of this Plan. The University of Limerick will reconvene a meeting of the Steering Group within five years to review this Plan and its policies.

THE BUILDING

A detailed architectural report on the building fabric has been prepared (Appendix C). It appears that, after decades of almost total neglect, two building projects were undertaken in the latter half of the twentieth century. The first, in the 1960s, is undocumented but appears to have been restricted to re-slating the roof and re-pointing the external walls. The second, in the 1980s, with support from Guinness Peat Aviation (GPA) and others, involved substantial re-modelling of the interior of the building and was primarily intended to address the structurally unstable first floor, provide suitable environmental conditions and improve accessibility for visitors. Neither project was entirely successful in its outcome, and both have left a legacy of problems which are outlined in detail in the architectural report. The shortcomings may be summarised under three headings:

- a) Defects in the building fabric;
- b) Defects in the building's services installations;
- c) Limitations in spatial planning.

Policy 22: The suitability of the Bolton Library building for housing a collection of international significance should be assessed to ensure that adequate provision for the storage of books and other documents and objects can be provided along with adequate facilities for conservation work and for visiting readers. A briefing document should be prepared by the trustees and sketch plans and estimates of cost should be commissioned to confirm the viability of this approach.

Policy 23: External masonry walls should be re-pointed using lime-based mortars.

Policy 24: Internal faces of external walls should be lined using a dry-lining system to prevent ingress of water.

Policy 25: The existing heating system should be modified to incorporate a new heat source, remotely located from the building.

Policy 26: In the wider context of the setting in which the Bolton Library can best be presented and used, a management plan for the ongoing maintenance of the building and its surroundings should be devised and implemented.

10. POLICIES TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

Establishment of the required security, environmental and curatorial procedures, as outlined in Section 8, will produce the platform required to increase understanding of the Bolton Library and its historic importance.

Understanding the Library and its historic importance will have the consequent effect of justifying its conservation as a national asset in its own right. Such understanding and appreciation should be followed by increasing its use, not only by scholars, but as an educational resource and an element in the social and economic (including tourist) development of Cashel and its region.

While it is outside the scope of this Plan to come to detailed conclusions on the methodology by which the Bolton Library could increase its potential, the Library has material which could easily be used to illustrate the history of books and printing and the significance of books in creating the modern world.

The creation of a small office/shop in conjunction with an exhibition in the cathedral or elsewhere in the town would provide security, guidance for visitors and the opportunity to sell appropriate items, some of which, ranging from postcards to monographs, could be reproduced from the collections of the Bolton Library.

Policy 27: The contradictions inherent in the current use of the Bolton Library building should be resolved by separating the functions of academic research library and repository from those of public exhibition, education and leisure.

Policy 28: The Bolton Library building should operate as a secure research library and repository, open only by arrangement.

Policy 29: In conjunction with the cataloguing of the contents of the Library, collaboration with academic and other institutions should be sought to publish and disseminate information about the collections.

In addition to the Bolton Collection, this exhibition should interpret those parts of the rich history of Cashel and its region which can be illustrated from the cathedral precinct, including the visible inheritance of the buildings, the town wall, the graveyard, and its relationship to the development of the town, linking particularly with the former archbishop's palace and St Patrick's Rock.

Policy 30: A public exhibition, drawing on material from the Bolton Library and elsewhere as appropriate, should be created in the adjacent cathedral or elsewhere in the town, in consultation and agreement with the diocesan authorities.

The urban archaeological survey map of Cashel reproduced in the *Cashel Town and Its Environs Development Plan 2003–2009* indicates the 'zone of archaeological potential and archaeological assets in Cashel Town Council area'. It is immediately obvious from this map that the two largest such sites in the town are St Patrick's Rock and the cathedral precinct, lying NNW and SSE of the

urban core. Annual visitor figures at the Rock approach a quarter of a million, while those at the cathedral are numbered in hundreds.

St John's Cathedral, the Bolton Library, the gate-lodge and the medieval walls bounding the site are all protected structures under the Planning and Development Act 2000 and are listed in the *Cashel Town and Its Environs Development Plan 2003–2009*.

In discussing cultural and environmental assets, the *Cashel Town and Its Environs Development Plan 2003–2009* commits the Council to supporting an Architectural Conservation Area and to the 'enhancement of existing open spaces'. In this context the Council is also committed to developing pedestrian and parkland links between the Rock and the town centre. The potential of the cathedral precinct to be involved in these plans is not explored or recognised.

Policy 31: *The trustees of the Bolton Library should promote the potential of the cathedral precinct, and any interpretative facilities established there, and this should be recognised and supported by conservation, tourism and other development plans for the town as a whole. This is particularly relevant to the creation of linkages from the Rock, through the Palace area and town centre, to the cathedral.*

Policy 32: *Recognising the potential for positive action by the local authorities in relation to the historical assets of the area, the trustees of the Bolton Library should support and encourage such action for the benefit of the whole of Cashel and its environs.*

CHERISHED BY THE NATION

Evidence of the national and international significance of the Bolton Library and its collections has not yet been followed by recognition of the Library as an Irish national asset with consequent support from the State or other appropriate agency.

Policy 33: *National government, in recognition of the desirability of retaining a national asset in the country and in Cashel, should be asked to assist in the implementation of the policies outlined in this Plan.*

Policy 34: *Agreement should be sought between the future trustees of the Bolton Library and the United Dioceses of Cashel and Ossory to lease the building to the trustees for the agreed purposes.*

Policy 35: *Agreement should be sought between the trustees of the Bolton Library and an appropriate government agency to ensure the ongoing upkeep, maintenance and presentation of the building and its contents to the standard required for a national asset.*



Plate 17: John Smith; the General History of Virginia, 1632



Plate 18: Lodovici Caelii; Lectiones antiquae, 1517

11. SUMMARY OF POLICIES

The contradictions inherent in the current use of the Bolton Library building should be resolved by separating the functions of academic research library and repository from those of public exhibition, education and leisure (Policy 27). The Bolton Library building should operate as a secure research library and repository, open only by arrangement (Policy 28). A public exhibition, drawing on material from the Bolton Library and elsewhere as appropriate, should be created in the adjacent cathedral, in consultation and agreement with the diocesan authorities (Policy 30). A qualified curatorial consultant should be engaged for the specific purpose of undertaking an inventory and assessment of all the contents of the Bolton Library in conjunction with the Special Collections Librarian of the University of Limerick, and to oversee the introduction of basic documentation, leading to informed recommendations as to curatorial policies (Policy 6). Agreement shall be sought to employ, possibly through the University of Limerick Library, sufficient staff to maintain the renewed Bolton Library as a research facility, supported by a public exhibition in the cathedral or other appropriate location. This will require the appointment of a suitably qualified curator/manager and support staff. The curator/manager would be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the library and exhibition and for executing policy, and would report to regular meetings of the trustees (Policy 4).

A Trust should be established, principally representative of the United Dioceses of Cashel and Ossory and the University of Limerick, with other nominees as appropriate, in relation to funding and other arrangements. The number of trustees should be limited to, say, nine. The Bishop of Cashel and Ossory, or his nominee, should, *ex officio*, be one of the trustees, together with the Librarian and a person with expert knowledge of the curatorial and exhibition functions of museums (Policy 2). Following the establishment of the Trust, ownership of the Bolton Collection, and such other material as may be decided, should be transferred to this Trust, which should then seek the necessary funding arrangements for it to operate (Policy 3).

The suitability of the Bolton Library building for housing a collection of international significance should be assessed to ensure that adequate provision for the storage of books and other documents and objects can be provided along with adequate facilities for conservation work and for visiting readers. A briefing document should be prepared by the trustees and sketch plans and estimates of cost should be commissioned to confirm the viability of this approach (Policy 22). The internal building spaces of the Bolton Library require organisation directed at minimising the possibility of incompatible functions or activities taking place in the same area (Policy 9).



Register

Christnings, weddings & burials
in the Union of Cashell from the
25th day of March 1668.

Christnings 1668.

John, y^e son of Michael & Elmor Edwards, was Christned in
y^e parish of St Johns, Cashell, y^e 29th day of May. 1668.

Mary, y^e Daughter of Edmund & Margaret O'Lea, was Christned in
y^e parish aforesd, y^e 5th day of July. 1668.

Elizabeth, y^e Daughter of Andrew & Margaret D'aley, was
Christned in y^e parish of St Martins, Kesh, y^e first day of
August. 1668.

John, y^e son of George & Mary ffewkes, was Christned in
y^e parish of St Johns, Cashell, y^e 23th day of August. 1668.

Elmor, y^e Daughter of William & Elizabeth Dams, was Christned in
y^e parish of St Johns aforesd, y^e 17th day of September. 1668.

Robert, y^e son of Francis & Anne Legg, was Christned in
y^e parish of St Johns aforesd, y^e 21th day of September. 1668.

Anna, y^e Daughter of Morgan & Margaret Wogan, was Christned in
y^e parish of St Johns aforesd, y^e 29th day of September. 1668.

Thomas, y^e son of Arthur & Wyley Badger, was Christned in
y^e parish of St Johns aforesd, y^e 7th day of October. 1668.

John Daffy Curate of y^e Union of Cashell.

Cashell
1668



Plate 20: View of the ground floor of the library

APPENDIX A

PAPER CONSERVATION REPORT

Bolton Library Conservation Report

CONDITION OF THE COLLECTION	1
General Climate Conditions	
Collection Condition	
STRATEGIC VIEW	3
Environmental Control and Monitoring	
Building Maintenance	
Preventive Conservation	
Training	
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Environmental Monitoring and Control	
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APPENDICES	8
Environmental condition report	
Condition survey	
Disaster plan	

Niamh McGuinne MA
Paper Conservator, 37 Morningside Road, Ranelagh, Dublin 6
(01) 491 3296 email: nmcguinne@eircom.net

MARCH 2005

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MARCH 2005

Condition of the Collection

The Bolton Library was assessed with regard to the general climatic conditions in the library itself and the condition of the collection, both in general and specific terms.

GENERAL CLIMATE CONDITIONS

While environmental control systems are in place, they have not been serviced and there is a great reluctance to operate them as they could pose a serious risk, especially as the building is not occupied every day. In any case there are no continuous monitoring provisions to check the accuracy of the control system. There is a hygrometer located upstairs though no regular records are produced.

The library is a cold and very damp building with it appears almost no air circulation, apart from that which comes in through the main door. Temperature readings taken varied from between 9.6°C to 11°C and rose in the office area to 16.5°C after several hours heating. (The outside temperature was 8°C to 8.5°C with 61%RH). The relative humidity varied from 68%RH to 74%RH and again dropped to 54.5%RH in the office area by afternoon. According to staff, although the temperature rises seasonally, the humidity remains the same. Therefore, the collection may be absorbing and releasing moisture on a seasonal basis.

Light intensity and ultraviolet levels are over the recommended maximum for 'high sensitivity materials' such as paper, textiles and leather. Please refer to appendix 1. In addition, it is good to note that the routines in place for general housekeeping are very commendable. However, the library should be regularly checked for pest infestation.

COLLECTION CONDITION

Two Columbia University Interns, Teresa Siebach and Miranda Martin surveyed the collection of 45 incunabulas and 15 pre-1701 manuscripts in the 1980's. To assess whether any further deterioration has taken place, the 18 incunabulas and 5 manuscripts were selected and condition checked. They were selected to represent as wide a range in condition as was initially assessed. Please refer to survey report (appendix 2) for specific details.

In general it was noted that almost all incunabula were damp and mouldy to varying degrees while structural damage was less of a serious concern. It seems that the problems with mould must be since this Columbia University report as its presence usually awards a high priority for treatment and therefore a volume could not be described as 'Good' or 'Excellent'. Mould had been identified but not highlighted; only 3 volumes suffering from mould damage were listed in the report's tabulations. The volumes cited as 'Fair' or 'Poor' had naturally not improved. There was some possibly active insect damage, though it could be explained by a continued 'leaking' from wooden boards, which were so riddled that they were structurally unsound. The manuscripts on display were not as damp as those on shelves. However, as the display is not regularly rotated, the volumes were generally warped from the high levels of humidity affecting the exposed folios. This was more obvious with the vellum manuscripts.

In addition to this selection, a number of volumes adjacent to the walls and windows on the first floor were checked. All were noticeably damp though not mouldy. Unfortunately, the fact that a number of the volumes condition checked had 'soft' paper, an indication of the break-down of sizing agents usually associated with mould. Simple brushing out may not be able to reverse the damage or to eliminate the risk of further deterioration.

Volumes checked downstairs in the Smurfit room showed mould activity on their bindings, mainly on the boards close to their spines and also on the foreedges to a lesser extent. They are quite tightly packed onto the metal shelving. The units are effective in protecting the volumes from light, however they extend almost to the ceiling and the tops are very close to the light fixtures.



As this is an office area (and relatively dark), the artificial light is necessary and therefore is on for the duration of the day. The metal shelves are therefore heated up over the course of the day and this probably contributes to the rate of deterioration.

There does not appear to be excessive light damage to the collection in the form of either fading or red rot. However, the Columbia University report noted moderate to severe light damage. In this report it was also noted that the UV filters were removed from the windows and were to be replaced. UV readings were not excessive (about 40mW/lumen) and must be due to the polycarbonate sheeting, which while moderately effective, is causing further problems with trapped moisture and lack of air circulation. Condensation was present between the windowpanes and the polycarbonate inner glazing and also inside a framed map on upper west wall. The shutters are not 'black-out' density and let a lot of light through. Light damage may be more significant in the exhibition cases due to the lack of regular rotation. Some display cases and bookcases have trays of moisture-absorbents included, but there is no evidence of the efficiency of this measure in any RH readings obtained.

Many volumes have unbleached ties protecting weakened structures. It seems however that many of the book shoes while providing the necessary support are not constructed from conservation grade materials.



Strategic view

The success of the conservation plan will depend on several factors being considered together rather than addressing areas/problems in isolation. Environmental monitoring and control, building maintenance, preventive conservation procedures and training must be considered together.

Another issue that should be addressed is the lack of space. The office area should not be a shared space, as the stored volumes here are subject to excessive fluctuations in RH and temperature. There is currently not enough space for more than one reader at a time. The office is over-crowded at present and does not appear either secure or safe to ensure handling procedures are met. All surfaces were covered and computers occupied the two main desks. This space needs to be kept for staff and readers and maintained at a comfortable temperature. The small plan chest is over-crowded as are many of the shelves. The archival material needs better support and housing, especially the photographic material (see appendix 1 for specific environmental requirements). By continuing to accept and collect, issues of over-crowding will worsen.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL AND MONITORING

The most important action required would be to improve the environmental conditions. In doing this it is very important to reduce any excessive fluctuations in the temperature and relative humidity (see appendix 1). There is little point in doing any other conservation measures if the treated items are then returned to these conditions. To address the problem with mould, the humidity must be reduced, while keeping the temperature steadily low. The air must also be circulated.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

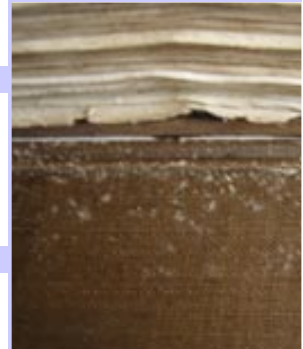
If the environment is improved, there should be building maintenance procedures/routines put in place to make sure standards are sustained. Equipment must be regularly serviced to stay in good working order. Records of work carried out should be maintained. It is advisable that a quarterly maintenance check is carried out. Ideally, the Bolton Library needs the on-going input from a body such as the OPW to provide adequate building maintenance, such as is the case at Marsh's Library.

PREVENTIVE CONSERVATION

For practical reasons, it is more effective to spend available resources on preventive conservation rather than expensive restoration work in the future. By implementing a routine of good housekeeping procedures and by using the appropriate storage materials and methods the processes of decay can be effectively retarded. In addition, treatments that concentrate on minimum or minor intervention can be more cost-effective.

TRAINING

There should be a person trained in collections care with over-all responsibility for the day-to-day implementation of the preventive conservation programme. Qualified conservators, who may also supervise and provide training for staff involved in preventive conservation, must undertake all conservation work. FAS participants, volunteers and internship students should also receive training in basic care of collections. In addition, staff should receive the necessary health and safety training.



Immediate action required

ENVIRONMENT

The environmental conditions must be changed to meet the acceptable if not ideal standards. There is little point in treating mould if items are returned to these present conditions, which encourage such deterioration of the collection.

DISASTER PLAN

A disaster plan must be drawn up as a matter of great urgency. It should address risk assessment, disaster preparedness, disaster response and salvage. Training needs should be identified and co-operation formalised with other institutions and conservation services (see appendix 3 for some general guidelines).

SPACE

Problems with space must be addressed.

'Black out' blinds should be fitted and the exhibition cases should be covered when the library is closed. The volumes on display need to be rotated.

The lighting fixtures should be removed from their immediate proximity to the tops of the rolling shelving in the Smurfitt room.

The rolling shelves should be fitted with spacers to encourage better circulation of air.

All new boxing, storage and display materials should be conservation grade and all existing boxes and mounts should be replaced as a priority.



Procedures

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND CONTROL

Due to staff availability, the best way to insure the 24-hour collection of temperature and relative humidity data would be to invest in either data loggers that can be downloaded at intervals or thermohygrographs. These sensors or loggers should be positioned; one on the first floor; one in a bookcase or display case containing sensitive material; and a further sensor/logger should be placed in the Smurfit room to record the conditions there. They should be well secured and accessible. The equipment should be calibrated annually and it would be worthwhile to invest in the calibration salts if this proves more economical. If thermohygrographs are purchased, a sling psychrometer is required to conduct spot-checks and calibrations.

The library needs a system of dehumidification to reduce the relative humidity. The temperature does not need to be increased except for staff comfort. If the temperature is increased, humidification will also be required.

Artificial light sources could be fitted with UV filters to eliminate UV. The polycarbonate sheeting on the windows is causing problems with condensation. If replaced, UV eliminating filters should be fitted. Windows and the main door, which do not have any filtration at present, should be addressed. All framed items could be glazed with Lexan rather than glass to eliminate UV (in addition, they should be hung with a gap between them and the wall to stop condensation). The library should invest in a UV meter and a digital light meter and conduct regular light readings at intervals. 'Black-out' blinds would be of great practical benefit.

The building is in a good location as regards dust levels. A good housekeeping regime has ensured that these levels are kept in check. To get some idea of the general levels of particulates, a small polished mirror or piece of glass should be situated near a window or corner and kept undisturbed but left uncovered. The build up of dust can then be gauged.

The library should be regularly checked for pest infestation. According to the 1994 report from John Gillis 'Piles of dead woodlice were found under the bookcases on the upper floor and elsewhere in the building'. Small traps can be laid in unobtrusive areas and checked on a fortnightly or monthly basis. Most importantly, new acquisitions that have been deposited may contain woodworm etc., and continue to thrive unhindered. Although there would appear to be little space available for adding to the collection, all new acquisitions should be kept in a 'quarantined' store until examined for infestation.

STORAGE

All storage spaces are specific – none should be used as offices except for access supervision. The storage areas are not adequate as there is over-crowding in the office area. Storage issues concerning the expansion of the collection will need to be addressed.

The various methods for storing the collection were looked at and the following points can be used for reference:

Bookcases

Open the doors of the bookcases on a regular basis to encourage good air circulation, especially in the downstairs cases which are solid-walled. Replace all storage materials, book boxes, shoes etc., with conservation grade alternatives.

Photographs

Open the boxes on a regular basis to encourage good air circulation. Insert small humidity indicators, preferably the type that register extremes in fluctuations rather than those that show current values only.

Framed maps, prints, manuscript fragments

Replace glass with Lexan. Place works in conservation board window mounts with layers of Multisorb, Mylar and conservation board behind the works of art. Use sulphur free, pH neutral boards for photographic material. Do not place in direct contact with the wall.

Free-standing exhibition cases

The bases are probably constructed of MDF. The material dressing should be removed and the wood should be treated with the Dacrylate. The dressing material could then be replaced with conservation quality board covered in a stable textile that has been washed to remove dyes and coatings. Otherwise open the cases on a regular basis to encourage good air circulation and to discourage the build-up of harmful off-gassing. These cases could be modified to include pre-



conditioned silica gel or Artsorb and sealed to create an improved microclimate.

Conservation grade materials are governed by strict rules. The paper should be made from pure alpha cellulose, either 100% cotton or chemically purified wood pulp, and contain absolutely no lignin, ground wood, waxes, plasticizers, optical brighteners, reducible sulphur, oxidising chemicals and non-cellulosic products. The pH should be between 8.5 and 10 and the sizing should be alkaline with no alum rosin present. The paper should contain a minimum of 3% calcium carbonate as an alkaline reserve and should comply with specific tests; folding, smoothness, tearing, abrasion, stiffness and bursting strength. The colour should be light-fast and should not fade nor bleed. It is important to note that the pH of materials used for the storage of photographic material should be neutral and contain no sulphur. Trade names such as Photon and Silversafe comply with these standards. There should be no alkaline buffer and it should have non-tarnishing properties.

EXHIBITION

All exhibits should be well supported and secured. The condition of exhibits should be regularly checked. The environment should be monitored and controlled and all storage and display materials should be conservation grade. There could be a response plan for dealing with acts of vandalism.

Books and manuscripts on display should be regularly rotated. A record of the duration of item display could be kept. Very faded or fragile works and those with delicate pigments should be identified and restricted from excessive display.

If cases are to be internally lit, fibre-optic lighting should be used to avoid heat build-up within the cases. Exhibits should be lit only when absolutely necessary. Items requiring differing environmental conditions should not be exhibited in shared spaces.

There should be extra security for when exhibits are being changed or accessed, if members of the public are present.

There should be 24-hour security available, even while staff are in the building. Smoke alarms could be fitted, though any type of sprinkler system is not advised.

HANDLING

All staff should receive training in best practice for handling. This should cover basic handling methods for care and preservation and how to supervise and oversee caring for the collection. Visitors should be supervised at all times.

There should be a clearly visible list of visitor rules to include;

- Ensure clean hands, have gloves available
- Use of biro, pens, prohibited
- Use of flash photography prohibited
- No food or drink

In addition to general handling, visitors should be shown how to use foam book supports.



Staffing / financial implications

There seems to be no lack of reports furnished detailing strategies for addressing the conservation and preservation needs of the Bolton Library. Several of the reports list simple cost-effective measures. Many of these have had to be reiterated in this report, as most were never introduced. This has to be due to a serious lack of resources both in terms of finance and expertise. Therefore the most important action to be addressed is; how can the conservation plan be implemented? The following options should be considered. All of these options require substantial financial commitment to succeed.

OUT-SOURCE ALL OR PART OF THE WORK

It is necessary to have skilled conservators to carry out the interventive conservation treatments. There should be a combined approach of specific full treatments for those volumes of highest importance, as well as a more general programme of minor treatment. An in-situ re-housing and phase-boxing programme would be relatively easy to set up, and a good initial project to tackle.

EMPLOY INTERNS TO WORK EITHER IN SITU OR OFF-SITE

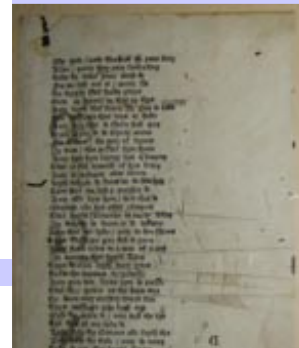
This was also recommended by the Columbia University report, which added that students could be made available to come and work, while also supervising and training other locally based staff. Links with universities and libraries and university archive degree/diploma programmes should be explored to identify assistance with training – for example, staff could be trained in Trinity in return for a period spent working there. All staff should receive training in caring for library collections where possible.

LOCATE A CONSERVATION FACILITY IN CASHEL

The current lack of space would make it very difficult to operate any conservation programme on-site. Particularly in this case, where damp and mould are such a problem. To address this, space to aerate the volumes is required. In the past this was carried out in the Cathedral, but the conditions there are not completely satisfactory either. It is clear from conversation with Muriel McCarthy that a Conservation Bindery such as Delmas at Marsh's would not be self-funding or self-sufficient without neglecting the purpose of treating the Bolton collection.

TRANSFER RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COLLECTION

Like Marsh's Library, the Bolton Library needs the on-going input from a body such as the OPW to provide adequate building maintenance. Environmental control systems need to be overseen, especially in the commissioning period until such a time as all fine-tuning has been carried out and operations are running smoothly. Even very simple equipment needs to be regularly serviced. This is a serious financial commitment and also a very important one. If this regular input cannot be addressed, there is strong argument for transferring the responsibility for the care of the collection to another party, for example; Limerick University, Trinity College or Marsh's Library, while retaining the collection in Cashel or moving to new location.



Appendix 1

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION REPORT

READINGS TAKEN AT THE BOLTON LIBRARY 17TH FEBRUARY 2005

Location	Temperature (°C)	Relative humidity (%RH)
Outside	8.5	61
Ground floor		
General	11	68
Inside exhibition case	11	72
Inside bookcase	11	66.5
Smurfit room/Office	16.5	54
Upstairs		
Stairs	10	71.5
Inside exhibition case	10	70
End	9.6	74

Location	Light (lux)	Ultraviolet (µW/Lumen)
Outside	10,000	7000
Ground floor		
1700 (Shutters open)		40 (windows - shutters open)
80 (Shutters closed)		40 (windows - shutters closed)
90-120 (Inside exhibition case)		20-30 (artificial light)
80 (Inside bookcase)		350 (through door)
Smurfit room/Office	120 – 200	450 - 500
Upstairs		
700 (window)		40 (windows - shutters open)
2000 (shutters open)		40 (windows - shutters closed)
270 (closed)		200 (artificial light)
300 (cases with shutters open)		
100 (cases with shutters closed)		
30 (darkest bays)		

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Light

Recommendation 50 lux for high sensitivity artefacts

Maximum of 10 uWatts/lumen of UV light at the lux levels specified above

Comment Lighting (natural and artificial) should not exceed 50 lux for high sensitivity items such as books and manuscripts. High

sensitivity items should also not be exposed to over 120,000 lux hours per year. There should be no UV if the lighting source is artificial. Otherwise 10 microwatts / lumen of natural light is considered acceptable.

Temperature

Recommendation 21°C +/- 0.5°C winter, rising to 24°C +/- 0.5°C summer, or 21°C +/- 0.5°C year-round.

Comment These specifications are very stringent and can be unfeasible to achieve without air-conditioning. Therefore, for comfortable working conditions the temperature should not fall below 19°C and should preferably not exceed 25°C for extended periods of time. The importance is on controlling the fluctuations which have a direct impact on relative humidity.

Relative humidity

Recommendation 50 +/- 3%RH year-round

Comment Again as these specifications are very stringent, we therefore recommend that in an area that is not air-conditioned the levels should be as stable as possible within the band of 50% - 60%RH. The fluctuations ought to be kept to a minimum within these parameters.

Air quality

Recommendation 90 – 95% efficiency particulate filtration

Comment This is very difficult to achieve without mechanical filtration. Emphasis should rather be placed on good circulation of clean air.

Ideally, public/office and collection storage/display should be kept separate. In areas other than collection storage/display, the environmental conditions should be dictated by human comfort. The facilities provided for the staff and public should meet the accepted health and safety standards.

Photographic materials

Photographic materials have a complex physical and chemical structure. Improper processing, poor environmental conditions, inferior quality storage materials and rough handling all contribute to their deterioration. Low temperatures will help preserve photographs by slowing down the rate of decay. Low relative humidity will cause problems like flaking, peeling and shrinking emulsions. High levels will result in mould growth, delamination and blocking (where photographs stick together). A constant level of between 35 - 40%RH is recommended for collections of mixed photographic materials. Light will seriously affect most photographic materials especially colour prints. Improper storage and framing materials can contribute to deterioration. Storage materials should be made specifically for photos and should be either paper/board e.g. Silversafe®, Photon® or polyester e.g. Mylar D®, Melinex 516®. Air pollution; contaminants in the air will readily attack photographs and oxidise the image silver. These include ozone, peroxides, sulphur and nitrogen oxides and hydrogen sulphide.

Appendix 2

CONDITION SURVEY

Shelf no.	Previous rating	Condition details	New rating (+reason)	Action	Mould
I. 17. 22	Excellent	Generally damp but no mould present Insect damage to binding (inactive) Upper board detaching + damage to head/tail bands	Good Structural damage	Reattach boards or Phase box	✓
I. 17. 26	Good	Generally damp with slight swelling Mould in text-block Otherwise structurally sound, no insect activity	Poor Mould	Treat mould	✓
H. 1. 16	Good	Generally damp Mould in text-block at tail Damage to head + tail, leather abraded No insect activity	Poor Mould	Treat mould Minor repairs	✓
I. 17. 23	Fair	Generally damp Slight mould in text-block Otherwise structurally sound, minor tears No insect activity	Fair Mould	Treat mould	✓
I. 17. 18	Fair	Generally damp with slight swelling Slight mould in text-block at tail/spine area Tears in binding, folios loose and soft at fore-edge. No insect activity	Fair Mould	Treat mould	✓
M. 3. 18	Poor	Generally damp Serious mould in text-block Cover detached, clasps corroded, boards very insect damaged, tears, paper soft Insect damaged	Poor Mould Structural damage	Treat mould Reattach cover Address insect damage	✓
H. 4. 32	Poor	Generally damp Serious mould throughout text-block, and limp binding – upper 'board' disintegrating. Binding very abraded, torn and scored, head + tail bands missing, lower board detached, sewing exposed and spine/cord damage. Insect damaged	Poor Mould	Treat mould Address structural damage	✓
M. 3. 12	Excellent	Generally damp Paper soft to folio 20 Water-stained Insect damaged	Excellent		
G. 3. 23	Good	Generally damp	Excellent		
A. 2. 16	Good	Generally damp with slight swelling Slight insect damage	Excellent		
C. 4. 17	Fair	Generally damp with slight swelling Tears in binding, upper + lower boards weak, damage to head + tail, text-block split Slight insect damage	Fair	Structural repairs or box	

Shelf no.	Previous rating	Condition details	New rating (+reason)	Action	Mould
M. 3. 6	Fair	Generally damp with slight swelling Binding abraded and damage to spine and tail. Boards weak and detaching No insect damage	Fair	Structural repairs or box	
Q. 9. 4	Poor	Generally damp Serious mould on foredge, paper very soft and disintegrating Binding very abraded, headband damaged	Poor Mould	Treat mould Structural repairs or phase-box	√
X. 2. 3	Poor	Extremely fragile Damp with serious mould throughout text-block Wooden boards and text-block disintegrating and insect-ridden Book box covered in insect and mould activity Sewing completely broken	Poor	Treat mould and insect infestation, major structural repair.	√
I. 17. 19	Fair	Generally damp and swollen Mould on foredge, paper soft Folios xxi to xxiv missing No insect damage	Poor	Treat mould	√
I. 17. 20	Fair	Generally damp Loose folios Slight damage to boards Slight insect damage	Fair	Repair structure or box	
M. 3. 19	Poor	Generally damp Mould in spine area and on end-leaves Adjoining folios soft Binding very abraded and torn, head + tail damaged, sewing split, folios loose Insect damaged	Poor	Treat mould Repair structure or box	√
W. 4. 1	Poor	Damp and mould damaged	Poor	Treat mould	√
MS 1	Good	Text warped (on display) Binding damaged	Good		
MS 2	Good	End-leaves detached Binding and upper board detached	Good		
MS 3	Excellent		Excellent		
MS 6	Good	Upper board detached	Good		
MS 13	Fair	Damage to binding Text-block soft	Fair		
MS 12	Good	Sellotape Text-block soft	Fair		
MS 20	Good	Boards weak, endpapers loose Binding very fragile, torn and abraded	Fair		

Appendix 3

DISASTER PLAN

- The Library needs to take preventative measures to ensure the protection of its collection in the event of a disaster. An independent risk assessment needs to be undertaken for all areas in the library. There is also a need to consider quarterly maintenance checks.
- The disaster plan should contain all contact details for staff as well as priorities lists, meeting point, holding point, supplies locations, transport lists, Harwell contact details...The disaster plan should include a floor-plan, list of priorities, professional services, supplies and human resources.
- Fully acquaint the Fire Brigade and other relevant bodies with the disaster plan and any reviews that occur. Request training from the Fire Brigade for all relevant staff.
- Provide a list of procedures to be followed in the event of a disaster. Compare to 'Emergency Procedures' of other libraries – to include vandalism, theft etc...
- Compile lists of contact details for relevant staff and ensure these are protected and available to relevant personnel in the event of a disaster. Allocate areas within the collection to each response member so that their focus during the salvage operation is pre-determined. Establish an area where members of the response team can meet. Establish a holding area for the temporary storage of the collection prior to its transport to a secure location.
- Identify a suitable off-site location to which the collection could be transported and safely stored for the duration of the emergency and the clean up operation. Check if there is an existing facility which could be assessed or partnership with another similar organization is also an option.
- The transport of the collection to the off-site location should also be investigated. Suitable transport companies, which are seen to be safe and secure, that will be available at short notice to be called upon in the event of an emergency should be identified.
- There is a need to prioritise those parts of the collection which are most valuable or vulnerable.
- The staff will need to undergo training in salvage procedures and methods, in order to minimize damage to materials during the salvage operation. Health and safety issues also need to be addressed in staff training.
- In addition the following provisions should be made:
 - The availability of suitable materials within the Library and those available from external sources to facilitate a salvage operation in the event of a disaster.
 - Consider subscribing to Harwell, a company which will provide freezing and drying facilities for damaged material. To compile a list of materials necessary for the salvage of damaged materials and ensure that up-to-date stocks are maintained.
- Finally, if the building is to be refurbished etc., the safe storage of the collection during any building works being carried out is of utmost importance, as the potential for damage is greatly increased.

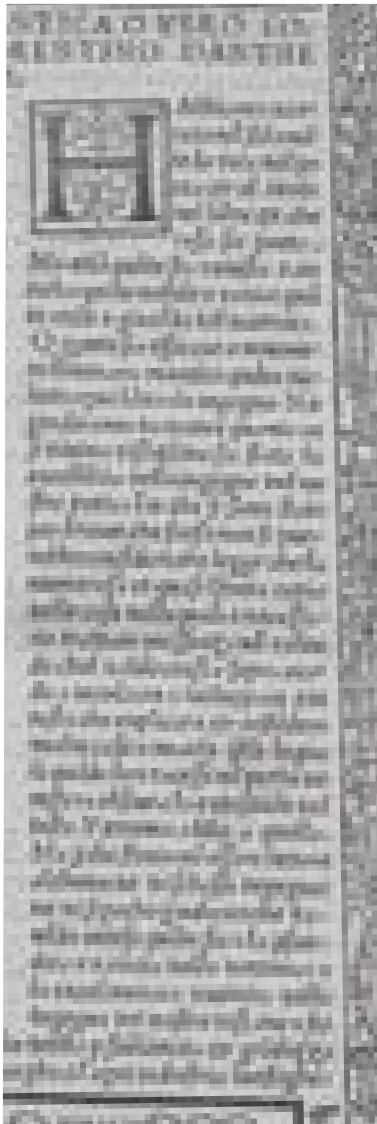


Plate 21: Dante Alighieri; La Divina
commedia, 1512

du Regne de Louis le Grand (1726). Conversely, the collection is, perhaps, not as strong as one might expect in Irish or, indeed, English history, given the overall breadth of the collection. There is a definite orientation towards continental Europe. It is stronger on topics that loomed large to Protestants in the eighteenth century such as Jacques Cavallier's *Memoirs of the Wars of the Cevennes* (Dublin, 1726) and several other volumes on this episode involving the crushing of the Protestant revolt in the Cevennes. That said, it is a wide and representative collection of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century European history and culture.

While the collection, then, is stronger on European than on British or, especially, Irish history, there are individual areas of strength such as the 1640–60 period encompassing the British and Irish Civil Wars and Interregnum. An impressive run of parliamentary pamphlets like the *Perfect Diurnall* gives a virtually week-by-week account of the English Civil War. There is also an apparently complete set of pamphlets issued by Thomas Fairfax (one of the senior parliamentary generals in the English Civil War), amounting to 25 in all. Pamphlet literature is, by its nature, ephemeral and more likely to disappear than bound books, and some of this material is quite rare. For example, the collection includes two unique examples of pamphlets produced by the Confederate Catholics in 1648. Ulick de Burgh's manuscript account of the Irish insurgency of the 1640s and John Colgan's *Acta Sanctorum Veteros* (Louvain, 1645) are other examples of a unique and a rare work, respectively.

EUROPEAN INTELLECTUAL HISTORY

A substantial number of works fall into the general category of European intellectual history, which therefore can be of interest to scholars working in any of the specific language traditions (particularly French) but also in the disciplines of philosophy, law and religious studies (strongly represented at Mary Immaculate College). Historians of ideas interested in the late seventeenth century, a period famously described by Paul Hazard as witnessing a 'crise de la conscience européenne', are particularly well served. The following are two main areas where projects could possibly be pursued taking advantage of the texts available. Some examples are indicated:

- The development of Rationalism, Scepticism, Philosophical Materialism; six works of Descartes, in Latin and English, including an early translation of *Six Metaphysical Meditations*, (London, 1680); ten items by Pierre Bayle, including a 1710 English translation of his enormously influential *Dictionnaire historique et critique*, which would be a very useful research tool for seventeenth- or eighteenth-century scholars across the disciplines; four extremely valuable quarto volumes of the original edition of Spinoza's *Opera Posthuma* (Amsterdam, 1677) and his *Tractatus Theologico-Politicus*, which purports to be published in Hamburg in 1670; Jean-Baptiste de Boyer d'Argens, *Lettres cabalistiques* (The Hague, 1754) Anonymous pamphlets such as *Free Thoughts upon the Discourse of Free-Thinking* (London, 1713)
- Religious controversy: five pieces by Bishop J.B. Bossuet, including the translation *An Exposition of the Doctrine of the Catholic Church in matters of Controversie* (London, 1685) and François Boyer, *Parallèle de la doctrine des payens avec celle des Jésuites, et de la Constitution du Pape Clement XI*

(Amsterdam, 1726); 43 works of Bishop Edward Stillingfleet, one of the most important Anglican apologists of the seventeenth century (whose immense private library was acquired by Marsh's Library), including *The Mysteries of the Christian Truth Asserted* (London, 1691)

It should be noted that much of the material on ecclesiastical-moral themes is also of relevance to the student of political or social history. The many sermons of the otherwise obscure Ralph Lambert over the period 1704–1717, mostly before his elevation to the diocese of Clogher, illuminate aspects of the *mentalité* of the nascent Protestant ascendancy. The study of collective *mentalité* is one of the present 'cutting-edge' frontiers of historical and literary research.

LAW

The collection includes foundation textbooks of the Common Law, such as Edward Coke's *Institutes*. There are also works on Social contract theory and the foundations of international law. These include twelve works of Samuel Pufendorf, including his *Elementorum Jurisprudentiæ Universalis* (Cambridge, 1672) and early translations of same, and his *De Jure Naturæ et Gentiu*, (Amsterdam, 1714). Thirteen items attributed to Hugo Grotius are also to be found, including the very influential *De Jure belli et Pacis* and its English translation (London, 1715).

GEOGRAPHY

The Looney Collection contains estate papers and manuscripts relating to south Tipperary, which would be ideal for a local study thesis. A large hand-drawn and coloured map of Tipperary of c.1780 would be of great interest to a geographer because it extends the range of the mapped landscape, its roads, settlement nodes and landmarks, back more than half a century from the earliest Ordinance Survey maps. The Heritage Council has agreed to pay the full cost of conserving this map (estimated at €2,000).



Plate 22: Tycho Brahe; *Historia Caelestis*, 1666-72

MISCELLANEOUS

Thomas Skelton's first edition 1612 translation of *Don Quixote* is one of only six copies known to be extant. The collection of incunabulae or transitional texts from the first half-century of printing is especially interesting to the historian of printing. Vincent of Beauvais's *History* (1493) is an excellent

example of such a transitional work combining printed semi-Gothic text with elaborate hand-painted initial letters. There are also materials for research on bindings and bookplates, the provenance of books, and the history of cataloguing the library. The small but choice collection of music would be of relevance to the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance. Material that might form the basis of an MA in History and Local Studies project includes the archives of local historian, writer, newspaper editor and Cashel publisher John Davis White and the diocesan archives.

It can be added that much of the substantial amount of French language material in the library could be of use for undergraduate projects in the area of the history of translation. Another general application for many items in the collection would relate to the history of the book in early modern Europe: many of the items would have interesting histories in terms of censorship, illegal publishing and underground distribution networks. For example, Spinoza's *Opera* on its publication in 1677 was regarded as an extremely subversive text throughout the Christian and Judaic worlds, and was banned in many jurisdictions.

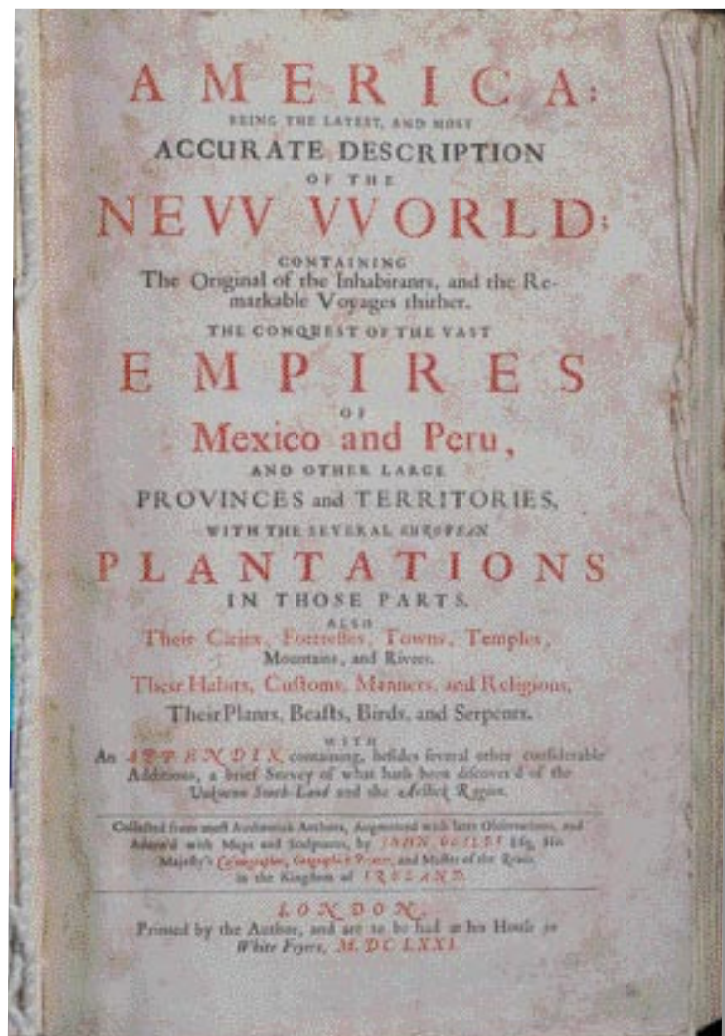


Plate 23: John Ogilby; America being the latest and most accurate description, 1671

CONCLUSION

In summary, the Bolton Library is potentially a very valuable research resource, providing that workable arrangements are created to enable researchers to order most (obviously some of the extremely rare and fragile works would be an exception) of the works and consult them in the special collections room in the University of Limerick library or in Mary Immaculate College. Most of these are rare, though not extremely so, books. They are rare to the extent that a graduate student would have to go to Dublin or, in some cases, to a British library like the Bodleian in Oxford to consult such material. Having them available locally would be a significant attraction.

APPENDIX C

ARCHITECTURAL REPORT

ON THE BUILDING FABRIC

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Were the Chapter House of Cashel Cathedral being used for normal ecclesiastical purposes, its current condition, with an essentially sound roof and relatively stable external walls, would not present any major cause for concern. Structural repairs, carried out in 1986, effectively addressed the totally inadequate structural condition of first floor joists which, supporting thousands of rare books in twelve timber cases, were sagging alarmingly under the imposed weight. The dramatic re-modelling of the interior ground floor area, necessitated by the introduction of the new structural support system, was carried out with aesthetic sensitivity with a visually pleasing outcome. Unfortunately, two major deficiencies are a lasting legacy of this, and earlier, well-meaning work.

The first relates to the approach taken to addressing the problem of damp penetration through the external walls. The rubble stone walling was re-pointed during the earlier phase of repairs using a cement-rich impermeable mortar, with the result that the ability of the walls to breathe was seriously inhibited and, as the new pointing cracked with the inevitable expansion and contraction of the structure, water which is readily able to penetrate through the cracks is unable to escape and tends to migrate towards the inner surface of the walls. In addition, no attempt was made in the 1986 work to address the tendency of the internal plasterwork to become damp and to retain dampness, particularly in the masonry panels below windows which are much thinner than the main walling. All of this resulted in the interior of the building remaining at least as damp as it was before the work was undertaken.

The second deficiency relates to the heating and environmental control system introduced at the same time. This utilised water heated by off-peak electricity stored in an external below-ground tank and circulated through under-floor heating pipes at both ground and first floor levels. The system was augmented by convector units on both floors. Control was to be achieved by humidistats. In effect, and for whatever reason, it seems that the installation was ineffective from the beginning, humidistats were actually thermostats and the control system was not understood and not properly used. The primary heat source no longer functions. The below-ground tank may be leaking or blocked and is inaccessible, the cramped below-stairs location of the boiler and associated equipment is unsuitable and the system is inherently inflexible. Because the installation is inappropriate, *ad hoc* and totally unsatisfactory arrangements are in place to provide a most basic level of background heat and humidity control.

In short, these major deficiencies render the building in its current state a completely unsuitable repository for an ensemble of rare books and objects of the quality of the Bolton Collection.

Other less pressing issues, such as loose slates and isolated timber decay in window cases, also require attention.

Remedial work necessary to make the building perform in a satisfactory manner would include external re-pointing using an appropriate mortar; re-plastering all internal walls using a ventilated dry-lining system; providing a new boiler house housing a gas- or oil-fired boiler, possibly utilising existing pipework but replacing all defective heat emitters and installing new humidity control systems.

In addition, the existing power and lighting installations require checking by a competent electrician and serious consideration needs to be given to upgrading fire and security installations.



Plate 24: View of the side and rear of the library

CONDITION REPORT

INTRODUCTION

This report on the condition of the Chapter House housing the Bolton Library Collection was prepared following an inspection of the building by Alastair Coey on Thursday 24 February 2005.

The survey was restricted to a superficial inspection of the exterior from ground level, the interior spaces and the roof space (which was accessed by ladder). Parts of the structure which are covered, unexposed or inaccessible were not inspected, and Alastair Coey Architects is therefore unable to report that any such parts of the property is free from defect.

A separate survey of the existing heating installation was carried out by Frank Reilly, an engineer with the Office of Public Works, on 26 May 2005.

For the purposes of this report, the main entrance gable elevation of the building is deemed to face north.

The following background documents and reports were referred to:

1. Ove Arup and Brian Grubb Architect, drawings dated January/February 1986.
2. Ove Arup and Partners, *Report on Structural Condition* dated February 1986.
3. Brian Grubb Architect, drawings dated 11 November 1986.
4. Description of Heating and Relative Humidity Control, 21 January 1987.
5. Energy Conservation Services, Letter to Danny Butler (builder), 05 February 1987.
6. Energy Conservation Services, Letter to Danny Butler (builder) and notes on defects, 16 February 1987.
7. Energy Conservation Services, Site Inspection, 04 March 1987.
8. Energy Conservation Services, Letter to Harry Martin (electrician), 09 March 1987.
9. Brian Grubb Architect, *1986 Restoration, History*, October 1988.
10. Maighread McPartland, *Assessment of Environmental Conditions*, 25 October 1994.
11. Muriel McCarthy (Keeper, March's Library, Dublin) and John Crillis (Conservator, Trinity College, Dublin), *Assessment of Environmental Conditions*, 25 October 1994.
12. Ove Arup and Partners, Ireland, *Outline Report on Environmental Engineering Services*, November 1994.
13. Brian Grubb Architect, *Comment on McPartland, McCarthy Report*, 16 November 1994.
14. W. Jackson and J. McIntyre, *A Report on Preservation and Risk Assessment*, undated.
15. The Office of Public Works, *Report on Existing Heating Installation*, June 2005.



Plate 25: View of the front door of the library

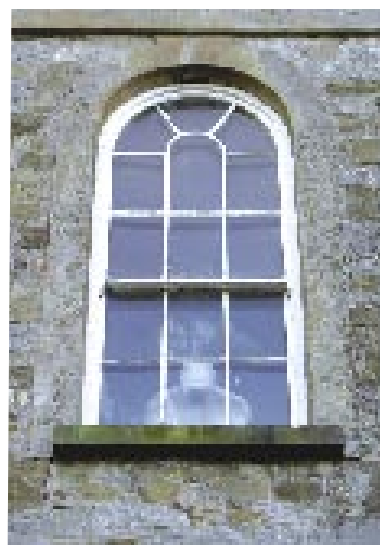


Plate 26: View of the first floor window at the front of the library

DESCRIPTION

The Chapter House is located on flat elevated ground in the south-west corner of the cathedral precinct of the Church of Ireland of Saint John the Baptist in an angle of the early fourteenth-century town walls of Cashel on the site of the medieval church of Saint John. It was built c.1835 by the librarian the Rev. Henry Cotton to designs by the Clonmel Architect William Tinsley (1804–1885) after the collection was displaced from its previous home in the Bishop's Palace following the Church Temporalities Act of 1833 which suppressed the bishopric of Cashel.

The three-bay two-storey building is small with an internal floor area of approximately 150m². The entrance, and only door, is centrally located on the north gable. The east elevation has only two ground floor and one first floor windows. The south gable has one first floor window. A pitched slate roof terminates in pedimented gables carried on plain ashlar stone corner pilasters at the north and south ends. Half-round cast-iron gutters on wrought-iron brackets are mounted on a projecting stone eaves corbel course. Downpipes are round cast-iron. Uncoursed rubble stone walling is horizontally delineated by plain ashlar stone plinth, first floor platband and eaves frieze. Stepped splay-capped stone buttresses have been introduced at some time in the past to counteract outward bulging of the east and west walls. Window openings are segmental-headed at ground floor and round-headed at first floor, sills are of tooled stone and surrounds are also of tooled stone although several have been extensively repaired in cement-based mortar. Windows are painted timber sashes with six-over-three panes to ground floor and nine-over-six to first floor; all have horns. The segmental-headed entrance door opening has a stone Gibbsian surround and painted timber door with six raised-and-fielded panels.

The ground floor, entered from the north gable, has a small vestibule to the north (R104) with a toilet (R105) opening from it below the staircase to the east. The vestibule opens to an exhibition hall (R103 and 103) sub-divided on an east-west axis by a Doric columned screen (introduced in 1986 to conceal steelwork stanchions associated with strengthening of the first floor), a cranked staircase rises to first floor in the north-east corner. In the south wall a centrally positioned door opens to an archive room (R101), which has on its east side a range of mobile book stacks and, to the east, work surfaces and a sink. The floor of the vestibule and display room is Portland stone laid in 1986, and a hardwood strip floor is laid in the archive room. Walls are generally of painted plaster applied directly to the inner face of external walls and timber studwork or masonry backgrounds elsewhere. The east wall of the toilet is tiled with diagonally fixed ceramic tiles. Ceilings are flat, of painted gypsum plaster and plasterwork on timber joints. Simple moulded fibrous plaster cornices are applied to the main spaces.

The first floor is a single space (R201) with a timber balustrade around the staircase opening to the north. The floor is timber boards on joists, walls are painted lime plaster on masonry background and the painted lath and lime plaster ceiling has a segmental east-west profile with a moulded plaster cornice which continues horizontally across the north and south walls. Windows have painted timber panelled linings.

The roofspace contains four substantial timber scissor trusses, each with central vertical wrought-iron restraint rods and with their feet bearing into pockets formed in the masonry wall head. Common rafters bear on single purlins and square wallplates. Timber ceiling joists are suspended from the bottom truss members to form the segmental ceiling profile. Glass fibre insulation is laid between the ceiling joists.

WORK PREVIOUSLY CARRIED OUT

The Bolton Library was re-roofed at some time between 1960 and 1980. No records relating to this work have been identified. Visual inspection indicates that, in addition to re-slating using natural slate (possibly salvaged from the original roof) laid on timber battens and bituminous sarking felt, decayed purlin ends bearing into the north and south gables were reinforced using steel angle irons bolted to the original timber. Also at this time the upper planes of the north pediment were replaced in cast in-situ concrete.

Much earlier, and possibly not long after the building was built, stone buttresses were constructed between the northernmost windows of the east and west elevations along with the insertion of a wrought-iron tie at first floor, apparently to restrain outward movement of the walls, possibly occasioned by settlement related to the fact that the building was constructed on the site of a medieval graveyard.

The only documented work carried out on the building took place in 1986 and was partially funded by Guinness Peat Aviation (GPA). The architect for this project was Brian Grubb (Clonlara, Limerick), and the structural and environmental engineers were Ove Arup and Partners. Dean David Woodworth was, effectively, the client. The work involved the following:

- Structural strengthening of the first floor: This involved insertion of a steel beam arrangement consisting of a primary beam on the north-south longitudinal axis of the building carrying the cut ends of existing floor joists, effectively halving their span. Existing floorboards were taken up and re-used. Secondary structural elements supporting the longitudinal beams were introduced at the mid-point of the Exhibition Hall and a new masonry wall was constructed to create an Archive Room to the east end.
- New ground floor constructions: Existing ground floor constructions were removed and replaced with a reinforced concrete sub-floor with stone slab flooring in the Exhibition Hall and hardwood beech flooring in the Archive Room.
- Internal re-finishing: Re-plastering and re-decoration of walls and ceilings. Installation of new joinery work. Installation of mobile archival storage units.
- Structural cracking: Cracks on the north, south and west elevations were raked-out and re-pointed.
- Removal of vegetation from external walls and re-pointing of defective joints.
- Repairs to existing rainwater goods.

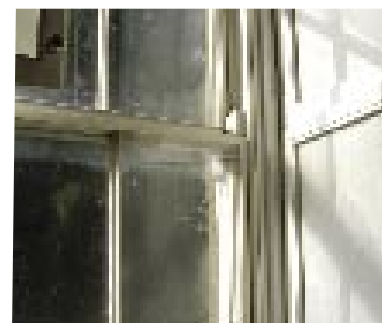


Plate 27: View of a window on the first floor of the library



Plate 28: View of the attic of the library

- Installation of new heating and humidity control systems: Hot water, heated by off-peak electricity in a boiler located below the staircase, was stored in an underground storage tank on the west side of the building, from which it supplied under-floor heating to the ground and first floors.
- Installation of new electrical power and lighting installations.

It would appear that the services works were not carried out exactly as described on surviving drawings and specifications, and a significant number of discrepancies and inefficiencies were soon apparent. In early 1987, shortly after completion of the works, correspondence between Energy Conservation Services and Danny Butler, the builder, recognised that the control systems were “now working” albeit with some work remaining to be completed and with problems regarding satisfactory operation of under-floor heating in the ground floor. It was clear, even at this early stage, that the system was complicated and difficult to operate.

In 1994, after the death of Dean Woodworth, Brian Grubb was asked to have Ove Arup and Partners revisit the building with a view to assessing the condition and appropriateness of the heating and humidity control equipment and to proposing cost-effective solutions to poor environmental control conditions. The ensuing report highlighted a number of anomalies, notably including the thermostat for the Exhibition Area being located in the Archive Area. A mini dehumidifier, located under the sink in the Archive Room, was controlled by a thermostat located in the Entrance Hall. Provision for a further humidifier was also noted but this had not been installed. Relative humidity in the range 69% to 78% was noted at the time of visit. The report recommended that the existing system should be surveyed and modified to provide moderate and consistent heating and controlled humidity. No work was carried out and the building continued to be heated by a totally inadequate, *ad hoc* arrangement of electric heaters.

THE SURVEY

For the purposes of this report, the front elevation of the building is deemed to face north.

The survey was carried out on Thursday 24 February 2005.

Weather conditions were cool, calm and dry.

A comprehensive digital photographic record was prepared.

Parts of the building which were inaccessible or unexposed were not inspected and, as a result, Alastair Coey Architects is unable to comment on the condition of these parts. It was possible to gain access to the roof space to carry out a superficial inspection although this was hampered by the presence of fibreglass insulation laid between ceiling joists and by restricted access at the eaves.

The services installation was not inspected although it was noted that the heating was inoperative and has been for some considerable period of time. A separate report on the services installation was prepared by the Office of Public Works.

EXTERNAL SURVEY

ROOF

Roof generally: Roof planes appear reasonably straight and regular with no significant deflection. It would appear that the roof was re-slatted circa 1970.

Slating: Large Welsh slates laid to even coursing on bituminous felt sarking. Generally sound. Some slipped slates noted on east slope.

Ridge tiles: Blue/black clay ridge tiles, generally sound.



Plate 29: View of cracked plaster under a window sill on the first floor

RAINWATER GOODS

Gutters: Half-round large capacity cast-iron gutters on wrought-iron drive-in brackets. Generally sound.

Downpipes: 75mm diameter circular cast-iron downpipes. Generally sound.

WALLS

Walls generally: Uncoursed rubble limestone walling. Smooth-render surrounds to window openings. Ashlar limestone sills. Projecting eaves corbel course.

Rubble stonework: Stone generally sound. Widespread cement-based pointing, generally defective and permitting water ingress to building through hairline cracking. Several significant vertical cracks on east and west elevations.

Ashlar stonework: Generally sound.

Smooth render details: Cement-rich render. Generally sound. Some cracking at heads.

JOINERY WORK

Windows: Painted timber sashes and cases. Some original glass survives. Some decay in sills and cases.

Entrance doors: Painted timber doors each with three panels, generally sound.

DECORATION

Paintwork to windows, entrance doors and rainwater goods requires re-decoration.

INTERIOR SURVEY

PLASTERWORK

Walls: Smooth cement-based plaster generally applied directly to internal face of walls. Extensive damp penetration evident in window recesses and surrounds. Historic structural cracking evident in previously identified locations.

Ceilings: Gypsum-based plaster on plasterboard to ground floor ceilings. Lime-based plaster on timber laths to curved first floor ceiling. Widespread hairline cracking but generally sound.



Plate 30: View of the ceiling on the first floor of the library

Decorative plasterwork: Fibrous plaster cornices to ground floor, generally sound. Moulded lime-based cornice to first floor. Widespread hairline cracking but generally sound.

FLOORS

Ground floor: Limestone slab flooring to Entrance Porch and Exhibition Hall, generally sound. Hardwood strip flooring to Archive Room, generally sound.

First floor: Timber-boarded floor, generally sound.

JOINERYWORK

Window linings: Painted panelled timber linings to ground and first floor windows, generally sound.

Doors and door linings: Painted timber panel doors, generally sound.

Skirtings and architraves: Painted moulded timber skirtings and architraves, generally sound.

Staircase: Painted timber staircase with painted timber balusters and hardwood handrail, generally sound.

Book stacks: Painted timber bookcases, generally sound but potentially structurally unstable and with inadequate ventilation for protection of books.

DECORATION

Walls and ceilings: Emulsion paint. Reasonable condition.

Woodwork: Eggshell paint. Reasonable condition.

ROOF SPACE

Primary structure: Single purlins (150 x 125mm) to east and west slopes on timber scissor trusses. Previous repairs to purlin ends at north and south gables.

Secondary structure: Common rafters (100 x 50mm at 400mm centres) notched over wallplate (100 x 100mm) at eaves and beaming on purlins at mid-span and ridge board (200 x 32mm). Ceiling joists (75 x 50mm) on timber hangers secured to bottom members of trusses. Evidence of former worm activity.

Insulation: Glass fibre insulation laid between joists.

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