

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, BOARD OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

The term of the previous Board ended in January 2016 and on 6 July 2016, the current Board of the National Museum of Ireland was appointed by Minister Heather Humphreys. I was delighted to be appointed as Chair of the Board. The Board quickly established itself and met four times in 2016.

The Board has appointed five committees with different areas of responsibility:

- Audit and Risk Committee (in accordance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, 2016)
- General Public Advisory Committee (GPAC, statutory, National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997)
- Development and Strategy Committee
- Ceramics Room Committee
- Director Review and Transition Committee

The Board established the Development and Strategy Committee to liaise with the Executive Management Team and Jura Consultants (appointed July 2016) to develop a comprehensive Masterplan which will provide strategic direction for the Museum over the next two decades.

The Masterplan aims to elevate the National Museum of Ireland and in so doing, to raise standards across the cultural sector. The plan focusses on the creation of world class facilities for collections care and visitor engagement. As a result of the implementation of the plan, it is hoped that visitor numbers will double, reaching 2.4 million, and own resources revenue to support programmes will be trebled.

The next step in this process is to launch of the public consultation on the Masterplan which we hope will raise support for our level of ambition. Additional resources will be required to develop the first major phase of the project and the Board is committed to securing these.

A key aspect of the Masterplan involves secure and suitable storage for the nation's archaeological, historical, geological, Folklife and natural history collections. To this end, the Board have engaged with the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the Office of Public Works to secure the Collections Resource Centre at Swords.

The Board have also actively engaged with the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs around the National Cultural Framework Policy, Culture 2025 / Éire Ildánach. In 2016, the Board recommended that the Museum should enter the Museum Standards Programme, which it will participate in from late 2017.

The Board have fully engaged with fiscal and corporate governance responsibilities, approving and submitting Financial Statements for 2015, monitoring the internal and external audit functions and working with the Department to secure clarity in respect of the Museum's public liability status and approving budgets for 2017.

In 2016, the Board completed induction training for all members which included any changes that have issued from the new Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016). The Board reviewed and approved the Dignity at Work Policy and the updated Corporate Governance Manual.

The Board also established a system of performance review for the role of Director and began the process for selection and recruitment of a successor to the current Director.

Following the internal publication of a report into staff health and wellbeing at the Museum in November 2016, the Board directed the executive to report on HR issues to January 2017 meeting so that it could develop an understanding of legacy and potential ongoing HR issues at the Museum.

In September 2016, I was invited to make a brief presentation to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and a close engagement with the Oireachtas continued throughout 2016.

In June 2016, I received a request from Government that the Museum make the Ceramics Room available to Seanad Éireann while essential maintenance works were carried out at Leinster House. The Board expressed concern about the risk that the proposed works might constitute to the collections and the building. The Board agreed to facilitate the Government's request noting that a major gesture would be required demonstrating a commitment to increase funding for staff commensurate with what the Museum was requested to cede. A Board Sub-Committee was established to liaise with the Houses of the Oireachtas and Office of Public Works on compiling detailed project planning to facilitate the temporary use of the Ceramics Room at Kildare Street by Seanad Éireann until January 2019. A memorandum of understanding outlining the roles and responsibilities of all parties to support this arrangement was agreed and signed on 16 December 2016.

The Ceann Comhairle expressed his sincere thanks to the Board and staff of the Museum for facilitating the request and the relationship between the Oireachtas and the Museum continues to strengthen.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Minister Humphreys and the staff of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs for their support and assistance throughout the year. The Board also thanks the Office of Public Works for the fine work it continues to do for the National Museum.

The Board also wishes to thank the Director of the Museum, Ragnall Ó Floinn, and his staff for the excellent work that they continue to carry out for the National Museum of Ireland. The centenary of 1916 has meant that this year has been particularly busy, especially in relation to the Proclaiming a Republic exhibition and associated programmes, but as a result of all of this work, the Museum has enjoyed great success in terms of visitor numbers and positive feedback from the public. As Chair of the Board, I have been proud to officiate at a number of launch events, including: *Roger Casement – Voice of the Voiceless* exhibition and the launch of the *Proclaiming a Republic* publication.

This new Board will now reflect on the actions taken throughout 2016 and move forward into 2017 with a strong vision for the development of the National Museum of Ireland through the Masterplan to build on the established foundations and create a modern Museum to present the national collections of Ireland on the world stage.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Catherine Heaney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Catherine Heaney,
Chair of the Board of the National Museum of Ireland

INTRODUCTION FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

2016 was a remarkable year for the National Museum of Ireland. The centenary of the Easter Rising was marked by a number of exhibitions, events and public programmes, not least of which was our exhibition Proclaiming a Republic – the 1916 Rising, which attracted record numbers of visitors to the Collins Barracks site. The exhibition was opened in March by the Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, T.D. and by the end of the year had received over 145,000 visitors. The public response to our exhibitions and events in 2016 exceeded all expectations - a record number of over 1.3 million visitors (a 10% increase on 2015 and the sixth consecutive year that the Museum has achieved over 1 million visitors). During the year, 168,000 members of the public availed of our Education services. I am very proud of the dedication and hard work of staff across the Museum in delivering an exceptionally ambitious programme of events in a very busy year.

A new energetic Board was established by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys in on 6 July 2016, under the chairmanship of Catherine Heaney. The Board members have been exceptionally busy since taking office and I am very grateful to them for the support and enthusiasm that they have shown since their appointment.

One of the highlights of the 1916 commemorations calendar was the concert A Nations Voice broadcast live on RTÉ from Clarke Square, Collins Barracks on Easter Sunday 2016. Presented by the Arts Council and RTÉ in association with the Museum, the concert included the world première of One Hundred Years a Nation, a major new orchestral and choral work. Over 1100 voices from 31 choirs and 19 counties, from Cork to Donegal, joined with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra for a very memorable performance.

Throughout this centenary year, each of the Museum sites contributed to the national commemorations.

In August, at the National Museum of Ireland - Archaeology, Tom Arnold Director General of the Institution of International and European Affairs officially opened a temporary exhibition Roger Casement – Voice of the Voiceless to commemorate Roger Casement's work as a humanitarian on the 100th anniversary of his death. In November, the exhibition Shuttle Hive: A Century of Rising Threads a commemorative collection from designer Alison Conneely opened at the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History. Conneely was selected from a design commission call by the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland and the National Museum of Ireland in 2015 to create a collection of new works on the theme of collective identity, marking the centenary of the 1916 Rising. The exhibition coincided with a two-day conference Mise Éire? Shaping a Nation through Design, exploring the expression of collective and national identity in Ireland since 1916 through the lens of design and craft. The conference provoked discussion and debate with a wider public around how the Museum should continue to reflect the increasingly multiple identities of Ireland in the 21st century.

As part of the National Museum of Ireland's 1916 Public Engagement Programme the National Museum of Ireland - Country Life looked at how the lives of ordinary people throughout Ireland were affected by the 1916 Rising, its aftermath and World War 1 through a programme of events entitled Beyond Sackville & the Somme. 2016 also marked the centenary of the Battle of the Somme and from July to September a series of commemorative events was held at the National Museum of Ireland - Decorative Arts and History.

As the year came to a close, the Museum launched Historical Collections Online, the first 10,000 records from the National Museum's Historical, Military and Easter Week Collections and a publication to accompany the landmark exhibition, Proclaiming A Republic –Ireland, 1916 and the National Collection which will serve as a permanent record of the exhibition.

One of the key acquisitions for the national collections during the year was a collection of medals awarded to Commandant General James Connolly, 1916 leader, founder and commander-in-chief of the Irish Citizen Army, and to three members of his family: his daughter, Nora his son, Roddy, and his grandson, Brigadier General James Connolly. The collection is unique, representing awards given to three generations of the same family in recognition of service given to the State over a period of almost 70 years.

The Museum continued to collaborate with national and international institutions during the year sending loans to Edinburgh, London, Prague, Boston and Tacoma, Washington.

Finally, it is with sadness that we record the death, in December, of Dr Séamas Mac Philib, former curator in the Irish Folklife Division. The National Museum and Irish Folklife studies lost an ethnographer, historian and lover of the Irish language of exceptional talent and he will be sadly missed by all his colleagues.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ragnall Ó Floinn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ragnall Ó Floinn

Director

COLLECTIONS AND LEARNING

ART & INDUSTRY

As the Division charged with the principal responsibility of commemorating the centenary of the Easter Rising of 1916, the year was exceptionally busy. Three exhibitions were opened including the universally acclaimed *Proclaiming a Republic: The 1916 Rising* in the Riding School at Collins Barracks. A publication to accompany the exhibition *Proclaiming a Republic: Ireland, 1916 and the National Collection* was published by Irish Academic Press in association with the National Museum of Ireland.

There were a number of highly significant acquisitions during the year. Purchases included medals awarded to three generations of the family of James Connolly, including the 1916 medal awarded to Connolly himself, his children, Nóra and Roddy Connolly and service medals awarded to his grandson Brig. Gen. James Connolly. Also acquired by purchase were a pair of Celtic Revival napkin rings by the Ancient Irish Art Reproduction Company, Dublin 1906; a contemporary pâte de verre glass vase by Irish artist Alison Lowry; a contemporary Harry Clarke digital print shirt dress and two digital print scarves by Jennifer Rothwell; a rare early Irish hallmarked gold brooch set with a large topaz and diamonds, by Joseph Johnson, c. 1835; a 1799 Relief of Wexford Medal to Private John Byrne and a rare parcel-gilt Celtic Revival silver yacht trophy, mark of Richard Sherwin, Dublin, 1853.

Donations included a collection of ten couture dresses designed by Tipperary-born Lorcan Mullany for the label, Bellville Sassoon/Lorcan Mullany. A ceramic vase by Deirdre McLoughlin and a silver, gold and lapis lazuli box by Erwin Springbrunn.

Initiatives throughout the year included three major online collaborations:

Contemporary Collection of Design & Craft (CCDC) with the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland through their Portfolio website; Inspiring Ireland's *Frongoch and 1916: Recreating a Lost landscape* in association with the Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI) and the launch in December of the museum's own *Historical Collections Online*, which showcases 10,000 records of the Art & Industrial Division.

External loans included that of the Gaignières Fonthill Vase to the National Gallery, Prague for an exhibition on Emperor Charles IV, 1316-2016 as well as material lent to the McMullen Museum of Art, Boston College for an exhibition entitled *The Arts and Crafts Movement: Making It Irish*.

In this centenary year of the 1916 Rising and unprecedented number of public queries were received and answered. Researchers were given access to reserve material across all collections. The centenary year entailed much divisional engagement with the media including RTE Radio 1's Marian Finucane Show, BBC World Service, Agence France Presse, Swedish National Radio, and Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung amongst many others.

Curatorial staff also gave interviews/provided information to media across all aspects of the division's collections and exhibitions and continued to deliver gallery talks, tours and lectures throughout the year.

Dr Jennifer Goff began a ten-month career break to study and teach in New York as a Fulbright scholar.

IRISH ANTIQUITIES

The Division carried out duties relating to its statutory functions under the National Monuments Acts. Over 1,000 licence applications were processed as follows:

Licence to excavate, monitor, dive/survey and detect: 688

Ministerial Consents and Directions: 71

Licence to alter an archaeological object: 144

Licence to export an archaeological object: 104

Staff liaised with the National Monuments Service and An Garda Síochána to combat illegal metal-detecting and reviewed issues relating to treatment of maritime material from Streedagh, Co. Sligo and the *Lusitania*. A series of National Museum of Ireland/National Monuments Service liaison meetings was initiated.

Fieldwork in relation to archaeological discoveries was undertaken in fifteen counties and 277 objects were registered. Significant finds include an early medieval hand-pin from Co. Limerick; a kite brooch from Omev Island, Co. Galway and an important gold ring brooch from Co. Kerry. Staff of the Division continued to liaise with consultant archaeological companies and state services on the acquisition and deposition of excavated collections and associated archives at the Collections Resource Centre in Swords. Work continued on completing the documentation and cataloguing of acquisitions for the period 2009-2015.

In August, the exhibition *Roger Casement: Voice of the Voiceless* was opened. Together with colleagues across the Museum, Irish Antiquities Division staff continued to monitor, upgrade and improve exhibitions at the National Museum of Ireland - Archaeology.

As part of our commitment to work with local and regional museums in Ireland, staff liaised and consulted with museum colleagues all over Ireland including Designated Museums in Carlow, Cavan, Clare, Donegal, Galway and Waterford. Staff also liaised with The Ulster Museum, Cobh Heritage Centre; Fermanagh County Museum; Blennerville Heritage Centre; Kerry County Museum; Lismore Heritage Centre and St Mary's Church, Kilkenny.

Irish Antiquities Division staff delivered lectures to a variety of local and national bodies on archaeological and museological topics across the country and participated in a number of television and radio programmes and attended conferences.

Staff represented the National Museum of Ireland on external bodies including the Discovery Programme Council; Royal Irish Academy Standing Committee for Archaeology; Bord na Móna Archaeological Liaison Committee; Steering Group of the Dublin City and County Archaeology GIS project; the Designated Museums Liaison Group and the Heritage Council's Advisory Group on Museum Standards Programme for Ireland.

The Division lent material to Kerry County Museum, to the Lismore Heritage Centre and Irish Antiquities Division and Conservation staff travelled to Seagoe Church, Armagh, to accompany the Terryhoogan Bell on a one-day loan to mark the 150th anniversary of the church's dedication.

A significant loan of Iron Age and Early Medieval objects to the exhibition *The Celts* at the British Museum was transferred and installed in the National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh. Irish Antiquities Division staff travelled to Tacoma, Washington, to return ethnographic objects from the *Arctic Ambitions* exhibition. 111 researchers accessed the reserve collections and 122 researchers visited the archive. Seven Transition Year placements and five interns were accommodated. Staff facilitated and worked on projects with the Smurfit Institute of Genetics; with Trinity College Dublin on ancient DNA from Ireland and with the McDonald Institute for Archaeology, Cambridge University on north Atlantic trade in the medieval period, analysing objects of jet and walrus ivory. Staff worked with National University of Ireland, Maynooth on their MA programme in Digital Humanities and

with Dr Lynda Mulvin, School of Art History and Cultural Policy, University College Dublin, on a Creative Europe-funded project entitled 'Connecting Early Medieval European Collections'.

Irish Antiquities Division staff were involved in a number of projects including the Dublin Excavations Publication Project; the Bog Bodies Research Project; dating and typology of iron spearheads and on prehistoric gold. Further research on Early Bronze Age ceramics was undertaken with a view to publication including photography of selected artefacts. Samples were submitted to the ChronoCentre Belfast for radiocarbon dating including human remains, wood and bog butter samples.

IRISH FOLKLIFE

2016 was another busy year for the Division. With regard to temporary exhibitions, *Migrant Women – Shared Experiences* continued until June; *OnSight* was mounted again in the Museum grounds for the summer; *The Hoard and the Sword: Echoes of the Vikings in Mayo* opened in May and the *RDS Craft Awards 2016 Exhibition* was mounted in August. An ancillary series of exhibitions was mounted in the Museum Café. The major acquisition of the year was a significant collection of over 400 folklife objects from Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

There was steady progress in the transfer of collections from Daingean to the Collections Resource Centre, Swords. Staff spent several sessions in Daingean assessing the collections there.

Staff from the Division provided input and advice to two-day event run by Teagasc in Athenry, Co. Galway in June entitled 'Farming and Country Life, 1916'.

As part of its continuing project of engagement with the Traveller Community, the Division organised a number of events during the year: a significant outcome of this was the decision to mount a major temporary exhibition on the culture of the Traveller Community in 2018-19, co-curated with members of the Traveller Community in Mayo, Roscommon and Galway.

Staff dealt with numerous queries from members of the public, students, academics, and other institutions during the year. They participated in the delivery of talks and other educational activities in the galleries and in outreach to community and local history groups and also to conferences such as the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology Women's History Seminar for International Women's Day in March

(hosted by the National Museum of Ireland - Country Life); the Economic and Social History Society of Ireland's Annual Conference in the University of Limerick; 'Children, Childhood and the Revolution' at National University of Ireland, Galway in September and 'Vizzards and Collicks' at the National Library of Ireland in October. The National Museum of Ireland - Country Life entered a partnership with Kingston University, London on a research project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council in the UK focusing on women and rural electrification in Ireland in the 1950s and 1960s. The project, entitled 'Electric Irish Homes: Rural Electrification, Domestic Products and Irish Women in the 1950s and 1960s', will result in an academic monograph, other publications, both academic and popular, a website (electricirishhomes.org) and a major temporary exhibition in the National Museum of Ireland - Country Life in 2019-2020.

NATURAL HISTORY

The Natural History Museum continues to be very popular with the public, with over 317,000 visits in 2016, which represents the most successful year on record. The Museum continues to press for the funding to allow the second and third floor balconies to reopen in line with the restoration plan for this 160-year-old building and to provide wheelchair access to upper floors. Staff are working with the Office of Public Works on interim improvements, including roof repairs following storm damage and a major project to introduce in-case lighting throughout the ground floor that is to roll out in early 2017.

The most significant addition to the collections was the transfer of a further 1,000 mineral and rock specimens from University College Dublin, completing the transfer of their reserve geological collections. Fossil collections were also acquired from National University of Ireland, Galway. Acquisitions included the egg of an Irish white-tailed sea eagle, laid in 2016, and a taxidermy example of a hare with unusual pelage. Research scientists continued to donate specimens of rare Irish species including a number of insects not previously recorded on the island. The collection of tissue samples from stranded whales and dolphins continued to grow through the support of the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group and other citizen scientists. It now contains over one thousand samples available for research on these protected marine animals. Giant deer remains were recovered from Counties Wicklow and Meath.

The focus on collections management during the year was in assisting documentation project staff with data-basing of specimens and preparing collections for cataloguing. Once catalogued, specimens are shipped to the Collections Resource Centre. This involves palletising hundreds of drawers of specimens, wrapping all taxidermy in plastic for freezing as part of quarantine controls designed to ensure no insect pests enter the new store, and documentation of all moves. This project is affording the opportunity to unpack some geological collections crated since the 1962 evacuation of the fossil hall exhibition beside the Natural History Museum prior to its demolition.

Volunteers assisted in the documentation of artworks, commencing with the Du Noyer watercolours that are due for exhibition in 2017. Several display cases were emptied to deal with moth infestations in the old museum building where moth and beetle larvae are a regular problem.

Staff contributed to television programmes on Dublin Zoo, rhino horn thefts from museums and extinct animals. They also gave a number of public talks and hosted tours of collections to a variety of groups and assisted with organisations including the Merrion Square Innovation Network, National Biodiversity Data Centre and the Geological Survey of Ireland's Heritage and Planning Programme.

Staff worked with the British Geological Survey to provide advice on curation and display of natural history specimens and also delivered modules of the Museum Basics course of the Irish Museums Association. Exhibition support was also given to the Copper Coast Geopark in Waterford. An exhibition of the Leske collection minerals was mounted at the Munich Mineral Fair, based on the acquisition from 1792 that marked the foundation of the RDS Museum collections. Staff were also involved in organising a conference held at Dublin City University on Mining and Social Change, with a day of talks and eleven field trips to Irish mines over an eight day period. They also spoke at a seminar organised for the Open University on aspects of climate change.

In addition to their scientific publications, the three scientific staff contributed to the production and management of the journals *Earth Science Ireland*, *The Geological Curator*, *Irish Journal of Earth Sciences* and *Irish Naturalists' Journal*. The website of the *Irish Naturalists' Journal* and the library of the Speleological Union of Ireland were also managed.

CONSERVATION

The work of the Department in 2016 concentrated on a number of key areas.

Remedial conservation of objects for exhibition took place, as did the conservation of objects of significance from the collections, including new archaeological discoveries.

Preventive conservation work was undertaken, ensuring that the environments in galleries and stores are appropriate to the preservation of the collections.

Investigative conservation was the other major area of activity, examining objects using scientific techniques to find out as much as possible about them.

Conservation for Exhibitions

A number of temporary exhibitions took place during the year and all of the material included in them was conserved and mounted. The primary focus in this regard was the 1916 exhibition, a huge undertaking in the first part of the year. In addition to this exhibition needing nearly the entire resources of the Conservation Department, a large amount of textile and paper based material for this exhibition had to be conserved in the private sector. Later in the year, the focus changed to the preparation of objects for the *Roger Casement – Voice of the Voiceless* exhibition at the National Museum of Ireland - Archaeology and *The Hoard and the Sword* exhibition at the National Museum of Ireland - Country Life.

Conservation for Loans

A large amount of material went out on loan in 2016 to various exhibitions - both domestic and international. All objects were conserved, condition reported and in many cases mounted. Highlights of the loans programme included objects from the Art and Industry collection that went to the McMullen Museum of Art in Boston. A major loan of objects to *The Celts* exhibition at the British Museum was transferred to the National Museum of Scotland, and then returned to Dublin. The *Hair Hurling Balls* exhibition was transferred from Galway County Museum to Tipperary County Museum.

Other Remedial Conservation

Other remedial conservation carried out in the Department included the continuing conservation of a collection of cannons and associated finds from the Armada wreck, *La Juliana*, and the Lough Kinale book shrine. The last objects from the Museum's 70-year backlog of waterlogged wood were conserved in the Museum's conservation facility at Lanesborough. This function is to be transferred to the Collections Resource Centre in Swords in 2017.

Preventive Conservation

The museum environment continued to be monitored and maintained, as far as practicable. Relative humidity and temperature was continuously monitored on sites where collections are held and new telemetric monitoring systems were purchased for the National Museum of Ireland - Archaeology and the Collections Resource Centre. Surveys were made of light levels which were adjusted to minimize the damage done by light to objects on exhibition. Insect pest monitoring continued on all sites, with objects being frozen to control infestations as necessary.

Investigative Conservation

Investigation of the collections took place during the year using the Museum's X-ray and XRF facilities.

The Collections Resource Centre, Swords

A great deal of conservation time was spent during the year, preparing objects for transfer to the Collections Resource Centre in Swords. Objects were transferred to the facility with a particular emphasis being placed during the year on the collections housed in Daingean. A series of monthly three-day visits by up to five members of the department took place throughout the year, to clean and prepare these collections for transfer to the CRC.

Other

The department was again heavily affected by the recruitment restrictions with personnel numbers reduced to the lowest levels in nearly 20 years. The absence of a paper conservator and a textile conservator were particularly noticeable in the preparation of objects for the 1916 and Roger Casement exhibitions.

Modules on conservation and on the museum environment were given by Conservation staff as part of the Conservation Science degree course at Sligo IT and the MA course in Museum Studies at University College, Cork respectively.

The programme of public tours of the department continued, and the usual range of enquiries was received, from both the public and professional colleagues.

REGISTRATION

The documentation Inventory Project continued in three curatorial divisions and a total of 65,458 records were validated this year, bringing the total number of validated records since the project began to 661,304. Sixteen 'Documentation Discoveries' articles were published online in 2016. Over 120 new acquisitions were processed. The inputting of register data and attachment of scanned or digital images continued: over 12,000 register entries were input and 2,400 digital images produced and attached to the Art and Industrial Division database and some 700 register entries were input and 850 images attached to the Irish Folklife Division's records. Some 1,750 unnumbered records were provided with temporary numbers. The Documentation Plan Phase II, originally drafted in 2015, was updated. Some 10,000 records of objects spanning the Easter Week, Historical, Military and Decorative Arts Collections were brought to minimum catalogue standard by Documentation staff and published online as part of the 1916 Centenary Commemoration Programme. This covers events, topics and objects from the period between 1690 and the 1970s, from uniforms, flags, letters, photographs and firearms to the personal relics of the Irish men and women who played a part in Ireland's history, the majority of which have never been on display.

The Irish Folklife Documentation team repacked and documented seventy Penal Crosses and fifty plans and drawings of vernacular architecture to minimum catalogue standard, worked on the *Preserving the Peace* exhibition loan to Monaghan County Museum, the *Migrant Women* and *Hair Hurling Balls* exhibitions. They continued to document the Memory Book project and provided behind-the-scenes tours.

The Department co-ordinated the Museum's Standards Group which created an Adlib Access Policy, increasing collections information security and support for curatorial staff. The Terminology Group continued working systematically through terminology issues which are recorded in the Documentation Procedural Manual. During the year, 105 loans were processed in and out of the National Museum of Ireland.

Centralising, managing and providing access to reserve collections continued at the Collections Resource Centre (CRC).

A total of 56 collection transfers were effected during the year: 46 related to the CRC including 3 Natural History, 8 Art and Industry, 1 Irish Antiquities Lanesborough, 3 Irish Folklife, 5 emergency Irish Antiquities excavation and 10 internal transfers, due to the closure of two commercial archaeology companies. There were also 7 internal moves of Irish Folklife, Natural History and Irish Antiquities collections and several temporary collection transfers. Ten further National Museum of Ireland transfers took place. Some 39 researchers were also facilitated at the CRC over 169 working days. Twelve tours of the CRC were provided. One full-day of events in collaboration with Fingal County Council's Swords Castle Community Dig Project was held on site and the National Monuments Service held their Annual Conference at the CRC. A chemical containment store was installed with separate ventilation for Natural History collections (bird skins and entomology). The CRC was noted as the Office of Public Work's model Energy Efficiency site for 2016.

The Archivist processed 61 queries in 2016. Processing of the Easter Week archive was completed in 2016. Work continued preparing the Directors' Archive for cataloguing with 556 boxes rehoused. Scanning the Museum's original letter files continued with 6,848 digital images created. The Archivist established the Archive and Records Working Group to prepare all staff for a records management survey planned for 2017 and to clarify the roles, responsibilities, legal responsibilities and a long-term vision for Archive and Records Management at the Museum.

The Librarian continued to provide a service for staff at all five National Museum of Ireland sites, including book orders and inter library loans, research queries, renewal of subscriptions/ memberships, re-shelving books in Collins Barracks and cataloguing backlogs of books at the National Museum of Ireland - Archaeology to Dewey, Library of Congress and MARC standards. There are now 20,295 fully catalogue records on the library system. The Librarian also worked with the Registrar to develop a long-term strategic plan for the Library which started with a review of existing Library-related policies and previously produced surveys and an increase in the service provided by making documents available through the intranet.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

In 2016, the Department had one of its busiest years with 168,000 people participating in learning programmes and using Education services across the National Museum of Ireland's four sites.

Schools, families and adults engaged in a range of events throughout the year which featured in the Calendar of Events. This public programme, which attracted record numbers of people throughout Ireland and from local areas, reflected significant anniversaries such as the 1916 Rising and the Battle of the Somme. Events were also organised as part of national initiatives such as Bealtaine, Heritage Week, Culture Night, Open House and Science Week. Drop-in events, such as the 'Ultimate Predators' workshops in Natural History and handling sessions in Archaeology, attracted up to 300 people.

The Schools' Programme attracted an unprecedented number of students who participated in tours and workshops, most of which were booked out months in advance. The establishment of a panel of freelance guides meant that the public demand for tours could be met, particularly tours of the *Proclaiming a Republic: The 1916 Rising* exhibition where some 9,000 visitors were facilitated with guided tours. Feedback from completed evaluations told us that 95% of groups felt that the tours exceeded their expectations.

As part of the Museum's offering to schools, the Department continued to organise training programmes for teachers during the summer months and gave specialised tours to students from a range of third level institutions. Responding to schools' needs for more online resources, the Department set up a microsite related to the Battle of the Somme and progressed on the production of a 1916 resource.

The Department continued to build relationships with local communities. The Knitting Circle, Music Circle and Genealogy Group at the National Museum of Ireland - Country Life continued to develop and grow while outreach visits were made to schools, libraries and other venues, when resources allowed. The Department engaged with new partners and built on previous partnerships with local and national organisations including Dublin, Mayo and Galway County Councils; Poetry Ireland; Design and Crafts Council of Ireland; University College Dublin; National College of Art and Design; National Theatre of Ireland; Dublin Institute of Technology; Mayo Intercultural Action and Science Foundation Ireland.

The Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN) was evaluated by external consultants with strong recommendations for its growth and expansion. The Galway Community Heritage website, which forms part of the iCAN network of websites, was selected as one of ten winning websites chosen by the public which best recorded Irish life in 1916 and 2016.

The Decade of Centenaries public engagement programme captured the imagination of many people. The lunchtime series of talks entitled ‘Archaeology of a Decade of War’ at the National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology explored the archaeology of conflict, while Dermot Bolger’s Writer in Residency programme entitled ‘Finding a Voice’ at the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History explored the themes of war and conflict while drawing inspiration from the *Proclaiming a Republic: The 1916 Rising* exhibition. Over 2,500 people participated in talks, workshops, panel discussions and online mentoring in these two projects. The ‘Beyond Sackville Street and the Somme’ programme, hosted at the National Museum of Ireland – Country Life, focused on the impact of 1916 and the First World War on social, political and cultural changes in rural Ireland. The programme included performances by Carnation Theatre, screenings by Irish Film Institute and lectures and talks by historians and genealogists.

The Department also played a key role in the development of exhibitions. In collaboration with the Design and Crafts Council of Ireland, the textile artist Alison Conneely was commissioned to curate an exhibition entitled *Shuttle Hive: A Century of Rising Threads*. As part of this exhibition, a two-day conference entitled ‘Mise Éire – shaping a nation through design’ was held in Collins Barracks which attracted national and international artists and designers including ceramicist and author Edmund de Waal. Feedback from conference evaluation forms highlighted the rich content and high quality of conference speakers and format.

The Department worked hard to promote and market the public engagement programme throughout 2016 and attracted national media coverage for some events. The Irish Museums Association selected three Education projects to be showcased as part of its Education Forum. The Department also worked with RTÉ jr to facilitate programmes on Vikings and animals that lived in Ireland in the Stone and Bronze Ages. Education staff also had stands at national events such as the National Ploughing Championship, Native Species Weekend at Dublin Zoo and the BT Young Scientists Exhibition.

Demand on the Bookings and Information Offices in Dublin and Mayo remained high throughout the year and work to procure a company to develop a new booking system commenced.

The Department successfully sought and received funding of €20,000 from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs for Battle of the Somme related events at the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History and received funding of €2900 from Science Foundation Ireland to run events with University College Dublin during Science Week at the National Museum of Ireland - Archaeology. The Department was invited to participate in Dublin City Council's 'Neighbourhood Project' which involved engagement with communities in the North West Area of Dublin City. The National Museum of Ireland's module, entitled 'Press Play,' involved Education staff collaborating with schools, adult education and men's groups in the northwest area.

Other highlights included Science Week at the National Museum of Ireland - Archaeology, a collaboration with University College Dublin, School of Irish Archaeology on the theme of experimental archaeology; 'Commemorating 1916 in Dublin 7' at the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History with five local schools and Dublin Institute of Technology. At the Natural History Museum, Education staff forged new relationships with key organisations in the area of science education, while two seminars were organized at the National Museum of Ireland - Country Life on women in history and immigration in Ireland which attracted a lot of public interest and debate.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The expansion of content and development of the Digital Asset Management System and Digital Photographic Image Archive continued with 11,400 images added. Newly-appointed Museum staff were trained in the use of the Digital Asset Management System continued during the year.

Much of the Department's time was occupied with new photography undertaken for the *Proclaiming a Republic: The 1916 Rising* exhibition and accompanying publication as well as for other exhibitions and for the *Frongoch and 1916: Recreating a Lost Landscape* online exhibition in partnership with the Digital Repository of Ireland.

Photographs were taken for various Museum departments as well as for external requests. Some 4,000 images were distributed on foot of 312 requests from staff and

the external market as well as dealing with photographic queries from colleagues in other Departments/Divisions, designers, multimedia producers and printers.

The Senior Photographer continued serving on the Online Collection Advisory Group and the newly formed Digital Imaging Group of the CNCI. New equipment was purchased and obsolete conventional photographic equipment was presented to Dublin Institute of Technology, Grangegorman Campus, Dublin, which was well received for the student's attending the BA Photography Course for their use in course work in conventional photography.

DESIGN

The year saw the Department involved in a large number of projects which ranged from artefact illustration, exhibition design and support, student placement, cartography and general graphic support.

The major project in 2016 was the Museum's exhibition *Proclaiming a Republic: The 1916 Rising*. All internal exhibition graphics, labels, exhibition flyer, poster, and associated retail merchandising were conceived and developed by the Design Department. In addition, promotional designs for a number of events, which were planned through our Education Department, were completed.

An associated publication *Proclaiming a Republic: Ireland, 1916 and the National Collection* was designed in-house.

All exhibition graphics and related materials for the exhibitions *Roger Casement – Voice of the Voiceless* at the National Museum of Ireland - Archaeology and *Universal Design: creating innovative solutions for daily life* at the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History were conceived and designed in house.

Archaeological Illustration was an ongoing activity throughout 2016 as well as design work on the quarterly Calendar of Events.

Various signage and labelling was produced across all four sites on an ongoing basis, including the redesign and typesetting of the labels in the *Prehistoric Ireland* exhibition which is due to conclude in 2017.

A number of transition year students were also facilitated throughout the year including two students from the Bertha von Suttner Schule, Mörfelden-Walldorf, Germany.

In 2016, the Department upgraded its computer graphic hardware through the Museum's ICT Department in order to keep in line with changing technology.

EXHIBITIONS

National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History

Proclaiming a Republic: The 1916 Rising

This exhibition, marking the centenary of the Easter Rising, contains many objects that have never been on public display before, while others, such as the Irish Republic flag which flew over the GPO, were specially conserved. Through a combination of objects, words and imagery, visitors are confronted with the physical reality of the events of Easter Week, following the stories of those caught up in the events of that momentous week - civilians, combatants and survivors alike.

The exhibition explores the background to the 1916 Rising. It introduces the visitor to the nuances of contemporary political events; the rise of the Catholic élite; the push for Home Rule along with the counter-moves of unionism; the increasing ‘Irish-Ireland’ aspects of the arts and cultural movements of the period and the growth of republican nationalism. The visitor is presented with accounts of the individuals and the organisations which featured in the political arena of 1916, as it became increasingly militaristic in nature. The exhibition also offers visitors the unique experience of physical proximity to the people and events of Easter Week through the everyday, intimate and personal belongings of the participants.

Project Lead Curator: Sandra Heise, with curatorial researchers Brenda Malone, Darragh Gannon and Pádraig Clancy. Graphic Design: Yvonne Doherty, John Murray.

March 2016 to 2018

Contemporary Collection of Design & Craft

This exhibition celebrates the success of a joint Design & Crafts Council of Ireland (DCCoI)/ National Museum of Ireland purchase fund begun in 2004 with the aim of enhancing the Museum’s collections of Irish contemporary design and craft works. A selection of these works was exhibited and a new online gallery of the entire

collection was created, which is hosted on the DCCoI.

Portfolio <http://portfolio.dccoi.ie/museum/>

Curated by Audrey Whitty with assistance from Alex Ward, Sarah Nolan and Patrick Boyle. September 2016 to 2018

Everyday Matters: Objects, Stories & Society, in association with the National College of Art & Design (NCAD)

This temporary display presented a diverse selection of inexpensive, everyday objects selected by students on the MA Design History and Material Culture course at NCAD. The objects reflected important contemporary issues such as homelessness, terrorism, politics, consumerism and the environment. This display imagined these ordinary twenty-first century things as artefacts of the future. A hundred years from now, what insights will objects such as these provide in relation to how we live in 2016?

Curated by Anna Moran (NCAD) and Audrey Whitty with assistance from Carol Smith and Patrick Boyle. May to September 2016

National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology

Roger Casement – Voice of the Voiceless

This temporary exhibition commemorates Roger Casement's work as a humanitarian on the 100th anniversary of his death.

Although Roger Casement is recognised for his role in the 1916 Rising, his humanitarian work investigating atrocities in the rubber trade in Africa and South America is less well-known. This exhibition uses some of the objects he collected during his time in Africa and South America to tell the story of this part of his life and the story of the victims of slavery and forced labour he worked for.

Curated by Fiona Reilly. August 2016 to the present

National Museum of Ireland – Country Life

Migrant Women – Shared Experiences

The exhibition combines a panel-based exhibition dealing with the work of the Mission of Our Lady of the Rosary for the Protection of Irish Immigrant Girls in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with objects and stories of modern

female immigrants to Ireland from many different countries. The film that formed part of the exhibition was shown at the Women's History Association of Ireland Conference in Belfast and at the 16th Belfast Film Festival.

Curated by Rosa Meehan. January to June 2016

The Hoard and the Sword – Echoes of the Vikings in Mayo

This exhibition explores evidence for Viking settlement in Mayo and the west of Ireland through the discovery of a hoard of silver bracelets from Cushalogurt, Kilmeena, and a Viking sword found in the River Moy at Coolcraun.

Curated by Clodagh Doyle. May to December 2016

OnSight

OnSight is an annual installation of artworks in and around the grounds of the National Museum of Ireland – Country Life. The theme for OnSight 2016 was '1916'. This artist-led exhibition project was a collaboration of the National Museum of Ireland, Mayo County Council and Mayo Arts Squad. It also involved a number of independent artists.

Co-ordinated by Rosa Meehan. May to September 2016

RDS Craft Awards 2016 Exhibition

Mounted by Noel Campbell and Joanne Hamilton of the Documentation Department. August to November 2016

Café Exhibitions

The National Museum of Ireland - Country Life facilitates exhibitions by others in the Museum Café which relate in some way to the overall theme of the National Museum of Ireland – Country Life. They are co-ordinated by an inter-departmental team consisting of Liam Doherty, Clodagh Doyle and Aoife O'Toole.

Give Your Voice Wings

Inspired by the exhibition, *Migrant Women – Shared Experiences*, a call-out was made for the public to send in origami cranes as a response to the general theme of migration and working with artist Gerard Duffy, these were installed as a hanging piece in the café art extension. February to March 2016

ARTefacts

Art works by students of St. Joseph's Secondary School, Castlebar inspired by objects in the National Museum of Ireland – Country Life. April 2016

The Dresser Project

Photography, film and story by Michael Fortune documenting dressers in counties Mayo, Tipperary, Carlow and Waterford. May to June 2016

Vanishing Large Houses of Ireland July to August 2016

A selection of photographs by Robert Smyth.

Head in the Hedgerow September to December 2016

Artworks by Hugh Barr of the rich natural world contained in our laneways and hedgerows.

OPERATIONS

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The 2016 allocations received from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs are as follows:

	€
o Pay & pensions	7,118,000
o Non Pay	4,044,000
o Capital	958,000
Total	<u>€12,120,000</u>

The 2016 Financial Statements show a net deficit for the year of -€439,083 compared to a net surplus of €1,105,656 for 2015.

The Finance Unit continued to provide assistance and support to the Board's Audit and Risk Committee in carrying out its audit functions.

The Unit prepared the Financial Statements for 2016 and accompanying audit file in May 2016. The C&AG audit of the Financial Statements 2015 took place during May and June 2017. The Museum's accounts in respect of the year ending 31 December 2016 were prepared in accordance with the requirements of section 35 of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997, are included in this report. The Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2016 have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, the financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), as promulgated by Chartered Accountants Ireland.

The Unit is responsible for the management of the procurement process of all National and EU procurements. To this end, the Museum is building internal expertise in the area of procurement and structured procedures and policies are in place.

The Unit is continually seeking to streamline operations, taking advantage of new technologies where budget constraints permit and implementing recommendations from the C&AG and Internal Auditor, to ensure the integrity of the Unit and its function.

On an annual basis, business plans are developed and implemented and regular monitoring of all income and costs is carried out during the year.

The Unit is actively involved in the project to move the current financial systems to a new Financial Managed Shared Service Centre and is currently preparing for Wave 2 which is planned to go live in January 2018.

Funding

The Financial Statements 2016 record a year-end claims provision amount of €587,506 (2015: €491,951) in respect of eight claims being handled by the State Claims Agency (2015: 7 cases). Five of the claims relate to public liability cases and three relate to employer liability.

Of these, five have been concluded by the State Claims Agency on behalf of the National Museum of Ireland, while three public liability cases remain active.

In accordance with FRS 102 Section 21 the following provision is disclosed in regard to claims at the year end:

	2016	2015
	€	€
Opening provision at 1 January	491,951	228,755
Net increase in provision	95,555	263,196
	<hr/>	
Closing provision at 31 December	587,506	491,951

Of the closing provision amount of €587,506, €371,704 is in respect of claims concluded by the State Claims Agency in the period 2014 to September 2017. Of the latter, €193,201 relates to settlements made to claimants by the State Claims Agency and the balance of €178,503 relates to State Claims Agency fees.

The Financial Statements 2015 recorded a receivable for the full amount of the closing claims provision of €491,951. It was the Museum's understanding that, given that the Museum has the benefit of State Indemnity in respect of claims made against it, the parent Department would refund the costs of claims that had arisen, been settled or are outstanding and also all future liability claims against the Museum. However, the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht clarified in April 2017 to the Museum that it was responsible to meet all payments due to the State Claims Agency as a result of Statutory Instrument No. 138 of 2014. Accordingly, these financial statements recognise an exceptional charge of €491,951 (see note 8 of the Financial

Statements) in regard to the write-down of the recoverable amount in respect of the State Claims Agency claims provision for 2015.

Discussions continue with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht on the provision of additional funding to the Museum in regard to the outstanding State Claims Agency liabilities and to make adequate provision for possible future claims.

CORPORATE AFFAIRS UNIT

The National Museum of Ireland's new Corporate Affairs Unit, established in December 2015, continued to roll out its function across Museum departments and worked closely with the Museum's Divisional Heads on various HR developments and initiatives.

The main focus of the Unit in the first part of the year involved moving the Museum's transactional HR to the Government Shared Service PeoplePoint and working with its parent Department in taking back the HR Function which had been managed by a shared service in the parent Department since 2013. The move to PeoplePoint was particularly challenging given the non-standard hours worked by a considerable number of Museum staff who provide a public service to visitors to the Museum's four public sites. The shared service for the Museum went live on 4th April 2016. The Museum continued to monitor its implementation and engaged extensively with PeoplePoint to resolve issues and enhance the service for the staff.

The National Museum of Ireland continued to avail of the Advisory Services of the Labour Relations Commission (LRC) in 2016 to promote good employment relations practices and considerable progress was made in a number of areas.

A staff wellbeing survey was conducted in July 2016 and its results demonstrated a very difficult work environment for staff and the need for considerable actions to improve communications and working relationships at all levels across the Museum. Management initiated a number of ongoing activities in response to the survey.

A working group, comprising members of the LRC Advisory Service, Management and two Staff Associations met throughout 2016 to revise the Museum's Dignity at Work Policy. Staff were consulted on the draft policy through a series of training workshops facilitated by an external provider. The policy was approved by the

Director and formally approved by the Board of the National Museum of Ireland on 17 November 2016.

Under the chairmanship of the LRC Advisory Services, the terms of reference and scope of a new National Museum of Ireland Industrial Relations Council were agreed by management and the staff representatives at the end of 2016. With the inaugural meeting of the Council planned for January 2017 this positive development concluded the Museum's relationship with the LRC Advisory Services.

The Corporate Affairs Unit managed seven recruitment competitions to fill positions in the areas of Natural History, ICT, Marketing, Conservation, Facilities and the Director's Office.

A number of staff members undertook approved third level course of education and availed of the Percentage Refund of Fees Scheme in accordance with Department of Finance guidelines.

Staff in designated positions of employment and National Museum of Ireland Board members complied with the Ethics in Public Office Acts of 1995 and 2001.

The National Museum of Ireland responded to 18 requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2014. Risk and Freedom of Information awareness training was carried out during the year.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

The Department's remit is the management of all telecommunication and information systems across six geographical National Museum of Ireland sites.

The unit was joined by a Network & Systems Administrator in November 2016, the first recruitment in the department since 2008. During the year, the Department participated in and led a number of projects to drive positive and strategic changes. New server physical infrastructure and backup systems were put in place early in 2016 to replace outdated SAN infrastructure, at Collins Barracks, Kildare Street and Turlough Park House. Servers were also re-designed to decrease impacts of malware and to lower downtime in case of disaster recovery.

Other infrastructure improvements included enabling new exhibition footfall, additional security cameras, and in partnership with the OPW, additional fibre and audio-visual infrastructure were installed throughout several buildings and for a new

meeting room at the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History. New hardware was procured and implemented in the Photography and Graphic Design departments and in the training room. The ICT department also enabled the complete hardware replacement and software upgrades in retail shops across all geographical sites.

The overhauling of all interactive platforms in the exhibition *Medieval Ireland 1150-1550* at the National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology was completed and a number of other interactive and audio-visual presentations was reengineered. The Department also enabled a new sound system in our main conference/seminar room at the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History and procured audio equipment for tours.

The website platform was further developed and the Calendar of Events (COE) is now bilingual Irish-English. The number of visits to the website www.museum.ie continues to grow, although the double-digit growth previously achieved for eight years in a row was reduced to a single digit growth between 2015 and 2016, despite a record of 96,500 visits/sessions on the website for March 2016, corresponding to the launch of the *Proclaiming a Republic: The 1916 Rising* exhibition.

The online growth was mostly due to visitors from Ireland and from the main Irish Diaspora countries (US, UK, Canada and Australia). A continued trend in access through mobile devices shows the importance and urgency of having our website changed to a responsive design.

The Department led the online publication of some 10,000 records from the Historical Collections (see <http://www.museum.ie/Historical-Collections>) in collaboration with the Registration Department as well as a microsite on the Roll of Honour of 1916 (see <http://microsites.museum.ie/rollofhonour1916>) with the Registration staff and the Art & Industrial Division.

The Head of Digital Information Systems engaged with an internal audit focused on ICT and risk management associated with staffing levels. Toward the end of the year, sanctions for a permanent post (Website & Intranet administrator, unoccupied since October 2013) and a 1-year contract (CRM data consolidation, website single sign-on and software development associated to GDPR) were approved late 2016 and to be recruited in 2017.

The ICT department also organised training for the website content management system, so that departments can take ownership and edit directly the relevant pages on the website www.museum.ie.

MARKETING

The year saw a record number of visitors to the National Museum of Ireland: over 1.3 million visitors representing a 10% increase on 2015 and the sixth consecutive year that the National Museum of Ireland has achieved over 1 million visitors.

The breakdown of visitor figures is as follows:

Visitor Numbers	Year To Date		
	Jan. – Dec. 2016	2015	2016
Kildare Street	467,820	479,261	2%
Merrion Street	313,664	317,269	1%
Collins Barracks	291,741	411,391	41%
Turlough Park	119,839	107,855	-10%
Total	1,193,064	1,315,776	10%

The Department gained extensive PR coverage in 2016 through national, regional and international print and broadcast media – with a particular focus on the 1916 exhibition and related programmes and events. These included the official launch of *Proclaiming a Republic: The 1916 Rising* exhibition by An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, T.D.; the opening of the exhibition *Roger Casement; Voice of the voiceless* by Tom Arnold, Director General of the Institute of International and European Affairs; *Frongoch - Recreating a Lost Landscape*, an online exhibition with the Digital Repository of Ireland and the launch of the book *Proclaiming a Republic – Ireland, 1916 and the National Collection* published by Irish Academic Press in association with the National Museum of Ireland. The Central Bank ten euro silver proof coin commemorating Eileen Gray was launched at the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History, Collins Barracks.

A series of photo calls were arranged and press notices were issued. Corporate events were held throughout the year and filming requests and photo shoots were accommodated, most notably for the television series *Penny Dreadful*, *Ripper Street* and *Rebellion*.

Networking was undertaken with trade partners including Tourism Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, Dublin City Council, as well as the accommodation and business sectors and cross promotion took place with partners including GPO Witness, Glasnevin Cemetery, Guinness Storehouse, Epic, Irish Rail, Irish Daily Mail and the National Cultural Institutions.

National Museum of Ireland – Country Life Marketing Report 2016

National Museum of Ireland - Country Life was featured extensively in national and regional print and broadcast media throughout 2016. The Castlebar to Turlough section of the Great Western Greenway continued to grow in popularity and was marketed as a tourist destination. Féile na Tuaithe, the annual festival celebrating rural traditions, crafts and skills, was held on 21/22 May and attracted approx. 20,000 visitors over two days. The Museum celebrated Culture Night 2016 with a talk on the Vikings on the Atlantic Coast of Ireland.

Digital Marketing Report

The development of a digital image bank, improvements in website accessibility and visibility, continuous updates in web content and increased communications across departments all contributed in ensuring digital marketing is playing a vital role in the overall marketing of the Museum. The National Museum of Ireland ran a successful digital marketing strategy and campaign for *Proclaiming A Republic: The 1916 Rising* as well as for other exhibitions, projects and programmes. The number of followers on Twitter (29,621) and Facebook (22,671) doubled as compared with 2015. An Instagram account was also launched in 2016. Digital Display and Facebook advertising took place along with the effective management of Google Adwords, contributed to the increase in followers.

FACILITIES (ACCOMMODATION AND SECURITY)

The Department provided front of house services ranging from invigilation to fire evacuation to the 1.3 million visitors across our four public sites during the year. In this regard the National Museum of Ireland - Decorative Arts & History welcomed in excess of 400,000 visitors.

The main attraction at the National Museum of Ireland - Decorative Arts & History was the *Proclaiming a Republic: The 1916 Rising* exhibition, which proved to be extremely popular throughout the year and great credit must go to the front of house staff who coped with the 40% increase in visitor numbers despite reduced staffing levels.

One of the highlights of the 1916 commemorations calendar was the concert *A Nations Voice* which was broadcast live on RTÉ from Clarke Square, Collins Barracks on Easter Sunday 2016. Presented by the Arts Council and RTÉ in association with the National Museum of Ireland, over one thousand voices from all over Ireland joined the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra to present a specially commissioned orchestral and choral work composed by Shaun Davey and Paul Muldoon. The event was the culmination of extensive preparation inter-departmental liaison and planning.

Apart from dealing with visitors and events, much of the Department's work involved tasks associated with maintenance. Considerable time was spent on the upkeep of property assets and equipment, requiring constant inspections, painting, replacement of parts, minor repairs and other actions. In this regard, the Museum would sincerely like to thank the Office of Public Works for upgrading security technology and mechanical services as well as upgrading facilities, exhibitions, buildings and carrying out minor projects.

New floodlighting of the National Museum of Ireland- Archaeology was arranged through the Mechanical and Electrical Division of Office of Public Works. In terms of commercial development, the Department increased revenue through facilitating and invigilation of filming and car parking charges.

PUBLICATIONS

Bernaciak, K. and Morton, K.

‘Conservation of a group of Mesolithic fish-trap baskets from Clowanstown, Co. Meath, Ireland’, in T. Grant and C. Cook (eds.) *Proceedings of the 12th ICOM-CC Group on Wet Organic Materials Conference Istanbul 2013* (International Council of Museums, Committee for Conservation (ICOM-CC): Lulu, Canada), 283-88

Cahill, M.

‘A stone to die for’, *Archaeology Ireland* (Autumn, 2016), 26 – 29.

Doyle, C.

‘Níl aon tinteán mar do thinteán féin - the traditional fireside of our parents and grandparents’, in *Farming and Country Life 1916* (Carlow, 2016), 225-231

Doyle, C.

‘Hair Hurling Balls: Review, Research and Scientific Investigations’, *Folk Life*, **54:1**, (June 2016), 3-31

Gannon, D. with S. Heise, B. Malone and P. Clancy

Proclaiming a Republic: Ireland, 1916 and the National Collection. (Dublin, 2016)

Gatley, S. and Parkes, M.

‘Earth Science Conservation in Ireland - a reappraisal’, *Irish Journal of Earth Sciences*, **34**, 79-89

Goff, J.

‘Neo-Palladian’, *Irish Arts Review*, **33: 2**, (Summer 2016), 234-239

Goff, J.

‘Emmet Kane-A Journey’, in S. O’Connell (ed), *Wood Awards Ireland 2016*, (Wood Marketing Federation Publications; Dublin 2016), 42-43

Goff, J.

Richard Gorman CASA (Dublin, 2016)

Goff, J.

‘Les Tapis en Mouvement’, in C. Pitiot (ed), *Pierre Paulin* (Paris, 2016), 104-115

Joye, L.

‘The Fighting Irish, 1914-16’, *Defence Forces Review*, 2016, 53-62

Joye, L. and MacEoin, S.

‘A historic accolade - the 1916 Centenary commemorative medal’, *An Cosantóir*, **76:10** (December 2016/January 2017), 28-30

Joye, L. and MacEoin, S.

‘Possible ‘Four Courts’ field gun returns home’, *ICOMAM Magazine*, **16**, December 2016), 28-32

Joye, L.

‘Flags of the Fenians’, *History Ireland*, **24:1** (January/February 2016), 47

Joye, L.

‘Thomas Clarke’s signature, No 16 Moore Street’, *History Ireland*, **24:2** (March/April 2016), 45

Joye, L.

‘The Irish in the Spanish Civil War’, *History Ireland*, **24:3** (May /June 2016) p 49

Joye, L.

‘Five months of failure: The Battle of the Somme’, *History Ireland*, **24:4** (July/August), 46-47

Joye, L.

‘Lord Chancellors Coach’, *History Ireland*, 24:6 (November/December 2016), 23

Joye, L.

‘Foreword’, in G. Warner, *Pioneers, Showmen and RFC – Early Aviation in Ireland, 1909-1914* (Newtownards, 2016), 5

Joye, L.

On Corporations Street, Home, Manchester and ANÚ Productions, 10th June to 25th June 2016

Joye, L.

These Rooms, ANÚ Productions and COISCÉIM Dance Theatre. 27th September to 13th November 2016

Joye, L.

‘Weapons of 1916’, *Century Ireland*

<http://www.rte.ie/centuryireland/index.php/articles/weapons-of-the-1916-rising>

Monaghan, N.T.

‘Bronze Age Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*) from Co. Clare caves’, *Irish Naturalists’ Journal*, **35**, 72

Morton, K.

‘Conservation, Preservation and Maintenance of the Wall Paintings in Clare Island Abbey, County Mayo – a holistic perspective’, *Journal of the Institute for Conservator-Restorers in Ireland*, 37-44

Mullarkey, P.

‘The Shrine of St Caillín of Fenagh’, in R. Gillespie, S. Ryan and B. Scott, B (eds), *Making the Book of Fenagh, Context and Text* (Cavan, 2016), 85-122

Sikora, M.

‘Review of *Celts: Art and Identity* by Julia Farley and Fraser Hunter’, *Irish Arts Review* 32:4 (Winter 2016), 580

Viscardi, P.W.

‘Colecciones de historial natural en el siglo XXI. ¿Donde estamos y hacia dónde vamos?’ *Códice* 17 (29), 6-15

Whitty, A.

‘Curator’s Choice: Psyche by Claire Curneen’, *Irish Arts Review*, (Summer 2016), 288

Whitty, A.

‘Juror’s Statement’, in F. Byrne (ed), *SOLAS An exhibition of Contemporary Glass*. (Cork 2016), 3

BOARD OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

A new Board was appointed by the Minister on 6th July 2016. The members of the new Board comprised:

- Catherine Heaney (Chair)
- John Bowen
- Mary Crotty
- Prof. Ingrid Hook
- Dr. Andrew Power
- Prof. Kathleen James-Chakraborty
- Ambrose Loughlin
- Judith McCarthy
- Denise Moroney
- Declan Nelson
- Prof. Mary O'Dowd
- Prof. Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh
- Lynn Scarff
- Virginia Teehan
- Aidan Walsh
- Karen Wilson

STAFF DIRECTORY

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Director

Ragnhall Ó Floinn

Secretary to the Board/Executive Assistant to the Director

Jennifer O'Mahony

COLLECTIONS AND LEARNING DIVISION

Head of Collections and Learning

Anthony Read

ART AND INDUSTRY

Keeper

Dr Audrey Whitty

Assistant Keepers Grade I

Labhrás Joye

Alex Ward

Assistant Keepers Grade II

Dr Jennifer Goff

Sandra Heise

Technical Assistant

Sarah Nolan

IRISH ANTIQUITIES

Keeper

Mary Cahill

Assistant Keepers Grade I

Dr Andy Halpin

Nessa O'Connor

Assistant Keepers Grade II

Isabella Mulhall

Fiona Reilly

Maeve Sikora

Senior Technical Assistant

Margaret Lannin

Clerical Officer

Eamonn McLoughlin

IRISH FOLKLIFE

Manager/Keeper

Tony Candon

Assistant Keepers Grade I

Vacancy

Assistant Keepers Grade II

Clodagh Doyle

Rosa Meehan

Clerical Officers

Liam Doherty

OPERATIONS DIVISION

Head of Operations

Seamus Lynam

Clerical Officer

Finbarr Connolly

Finance Manager

Michael Conway

Clerical Officer

Niall Sheehy

ICT

Head of Digital Information Systems

Olivier Kazmierczak

Clerical Officer

David McKenna

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Corporate Affairs Manager

Aoife McBride

Executive Officer

Jennifer O'Connor

Executive Officer

Catherine Carney

Clerical Officer

Maria Pringle

DEVELOPMENT

Head of Development

Anne Grady

MARKETING

Head of Marketing

Ann Daly

Marketing Executives

Bernie Byron

Maureen Gaule

Maeve McNicholas

Corporate Services Executive

Vacancy

NATURAL HISTORY

Keeper

Nigel Monaghan

Assistant Keeper Grade II

Dr Matthew Parkes

Assistant Keeper Grade II

Dr Paolo Viscardi

REGISTRATION

Registrar

Judith Finlay

Archivist

Emer Ní Cheallaigh

Documentation Officers

Noel Campbell

Sylviane Vaucheret

Clerical Officers

Frances Devoy

Paul Fowley

Staff Officer

Ann Vaughan

Documentation Assistants

Eimear Ashe

Emma Crosbie

Joanne Hamilton

Chris Harbidge

Brenda Malone

PHOTOGRAPHY

Senior Photographer

Valerie Dowling

DESIGN

Senior Graphic Artist

John Murray

Graphic Artists

Yvonne Doherty

Michael Heffernan

Darko Vuksic

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Head of Education

Lorraine Comer

Education & Outreach Officers

Helen Beaumont

Siobhan Pierce

Education Assistants

Dr Edith Andrees

Annie Birney

Geraldine Breen

Retail Manager

Ailis McKiernan

Siobhán Collins (Acting)

Senior Sales Assistants

Bernadette Gallagher

Tracey Curran

Angela Hart

Sales Assistants

Laura Casey

Ashlea Noonan

Jean O'Boyle

Radianan Rabissoni

Celestina Sassu

Veronica Skeffington

Pauline Stack

Conor Williams

FACILITIES

Facilities Manager

Gregory Kelly

Senior Facilities Executive

Paddy Matthews

Facilities Officers

Sean Kelly

Rory Loughnane

Deirdre Horgan

Séamus O'Donnell

Declan O'Reilly

Brendan Torsney

Telephonist

Giovanna Bosis

Service Attendants

Raymond Gearty

Patrick Moore

Cleaners

Martina Connolly

Catherine Finnegan

Mandy Johnson

Attendants

Joseph Brennan

Martin Byrne

Niall Byrne

Peter Byrne

Conor Carlisle

Leigh Coughlan

Henry Cowap

William Doyle

Paul Fennell

Padraig Fleming

Eoin Foley

Tom Doyle
Lorna Elms
Holly Furlong
Brendan Mc Donnell
Eimir O'Brien
Aoife O'Toole
Sharon Quinn
Patricia Ryan

CONSERVATION

Head of Conservation

Vacancy

Assistant Keepers Grade II

Patrick Boyle
Dr Karena Morton
Dr Paul Mullarkey
Dora Murphy
Carol Smith

Assistant Conservators

Nieves Fernandez
Hannah Power
Karen Wilson

On-line Collections Manager

Deirdre Power

Frank Foran
Andrew Gallan
Mary Gaughan
Henry Gillen
Enda Greenan
Henry Hackett
Sean Hallinan
Ken Hayes
Dylan Hoctor
Angela Jordan
Christopher Keenan
Vincent Kiely
Fergal Leahy
Brendan Lynch
Majella Lynch
Keith MacDonald
Daragh Magee
Mark McDonnell
Alan McKeever
Emmet McNamara
Olivia Merriman
Oliver Murphy
Thomas Murphy
Eamonn Reel
Derek Reid
James Reynolds
Alan Scully
Greg Stevenson
Lorraine Stewart
Dominic Swaine
Linda Switzer
Liam Walsh
Neil Walsh
Noreen Ward
Caretaker
Michael Byrne