

## **Finding Furlong**

Insights into the Library of a 19<sup>th</sup> century theologian



Mick O'Dwyer and Barbara McCormack February 2015

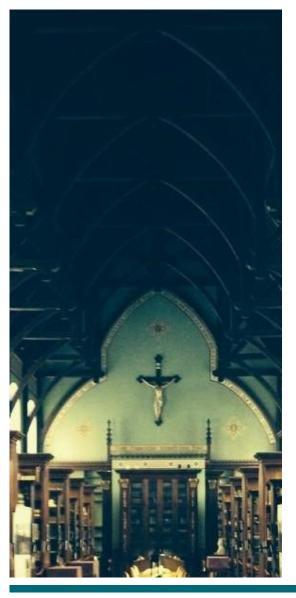


# Today we will explain ...

- Who Bishop Thomas Furlong was
- Why his collection came to Maynooth
- Highlights of the collection
- Future plans for this collection







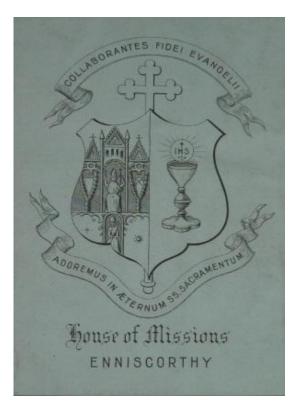
# **Finding Furlong**

- Thomas Furlong (1802-75) was born in Mayglass, Co. Wexford
- He taught at Maynooth College for over 30 years
- Ordained Bishop of Ferns in 1857
- Known as one of four 'inopportunist'
   Irish Bishops





# Connection to the Congregation of the Sisters of St John of God



Bookplate of the House of Missions
Enniscorthy

- Furlong founded the Congregation of the Sisters of St John of God in 1871
- Established a base for the Sisters to minister to the poverty stricken people of Wexford
- Eight sisters emigrated to Australia in 1895, have been active their since.





# The Furlong Collection

- Collection donated to the Russell Library following the closure of the House of Missions in 1993
- Contains approximately 1,360 antiquarian books
- Items range in date from the 16th to the 19th century
- Subjects include: ecclesiastical history, scripture, theology, philosophy, ethics and liturgy
- Features almost 100 Irish imprints

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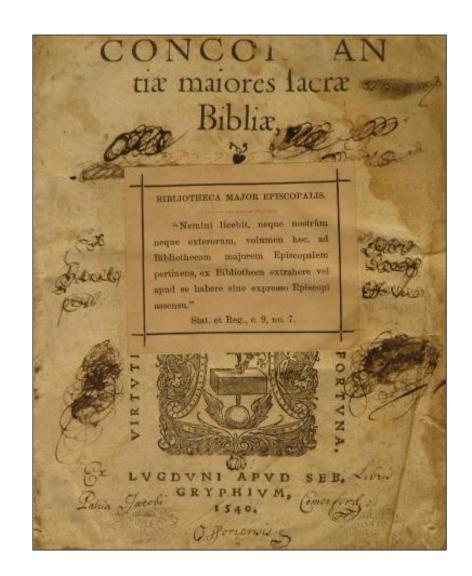






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Oldest book in the Furlong Collection



### Why are 'Special Collections' important?

VALUE



**UNIQUENESS** 



**ASSOCIATIONS** 













# **Project Goals**

## Facilitate Research

- Enhance existing research
- Enable new discoveries to be made

### Improve Access

- Create a finding aid
- Facilitate quick retrieval

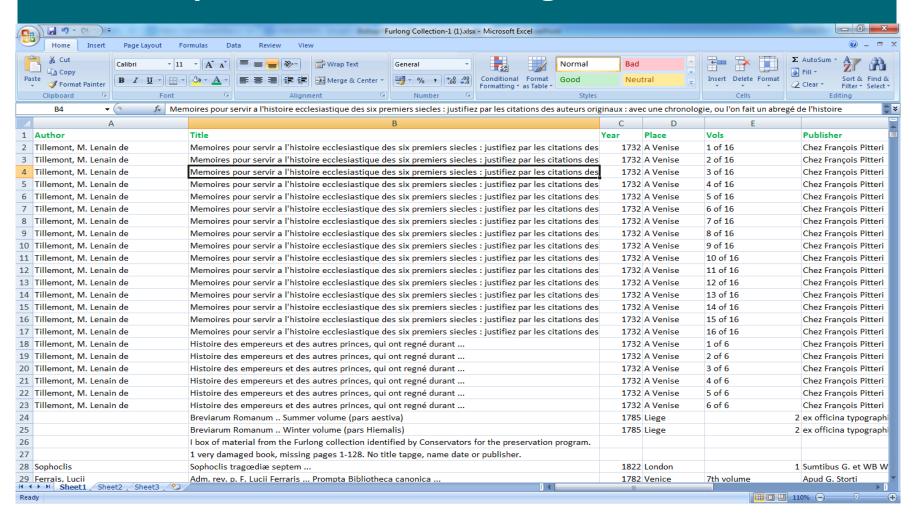
## Generate Awareness

- Promote the collection online
- Give talks explaining its significance





#### **Spreadsheet of Furlong Collection**







#### **Access Points**

**Author** 

Title

Place

Year

Vol.

Subject

F Number

FG Number

Other Author

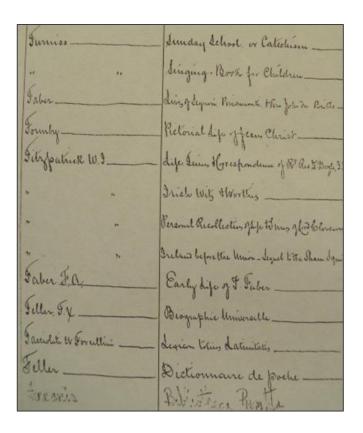
**Notes** 

**Publisher** 





# **Challenges**



- Previous handwritten catalogue not fully legible
- Previous classification system became redundant
- It is all Greek to me!





# **Collection Highlights: Manuscripts**

- Inner spine of F138 contains thin strips of manuscript material
- Manuscript fragments
   often used to: reinforce
   spines, cover boards,
   endpapers



Manuscript lining inner spine of F138







#### **Illustrations & Decoration**



Metal engraving







Woodcuts – printers devices and headbands





# **Bindings**



Cheap binding (House of Missions bookplate)



Vellum binding



Damaged spine







Pressed flowers in Furlong book

#### **Future Plans**

- Create minimal level bibliographic records
- Enhance records to reflect provenance, binding and other item specific details
- Further research into the collection e.g.
   Manuscript fragments



Signature of T. Furlong (on title page)



