

THE SALAMANCA ARCHIVE & THE IRISH COLLEGES IN SPAIN: INTO THE 21ST CENTURY ONLINE CATALOGUE AND RESEARCH

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Migration

has always been a big factor in Irish history and from 1600 to 1800 continental Europe was the main destination for tens of thousands of Irish migrants. Significant groupings of Irish migrants and exiles were seeking religious refuge, due to a series of penal laws directed towards Catholics and in operation in Ireland from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century.

These laws precluded the establishment of Catholic seminaries in Ireland as they forbade any type of Catholic teaching or education as well as encouraging the banishment of Catholic clergy in general. Various European cities and towns could provide places of support for the education and well-being of Catholic seminarists. Quickly, a network of Irish colleges began to emerge on the continent predominantly in Belgium, France, Italy, Spain and Portugal which educated both clergy and laity. The Irish colleges had the specific task of educating and training students for the priesthood and for the Irish Mission.

ARCHIVE

The archive of the Irish College, Salamanca contains the archives of the Irish colleges in Salamanca, Santiago de Compostela, Sevilla, Madrid and Alcalá de Henares spanning the period from the late sixteenth century to the mid-twentieth century.

This archive holds over 50,000 documents mainly from the Irish College in Salamanca. The archives are the property of the Irish Episcopal Conference and were deposited in St Patrick's College, Maynooth in 1952 when the last of the Irish colleges in Salamanca closed its doors. **The Salamanca Archive is the most important Spanish language archive collection in Ireland.**

In the archive one can find material as varied as: students' oaths, rectors' private papers, administrative & private accounts, leases of property owned by the Irish colleges, rents & royalties, mortgages, title deeds, receipts, books of income & daily expenses, correspondence, petitions, royal bulls & briefs, proclamations & decrees, execution of wills, annuities and college photographs.



Account book of the Irish College, Salamanca 1772



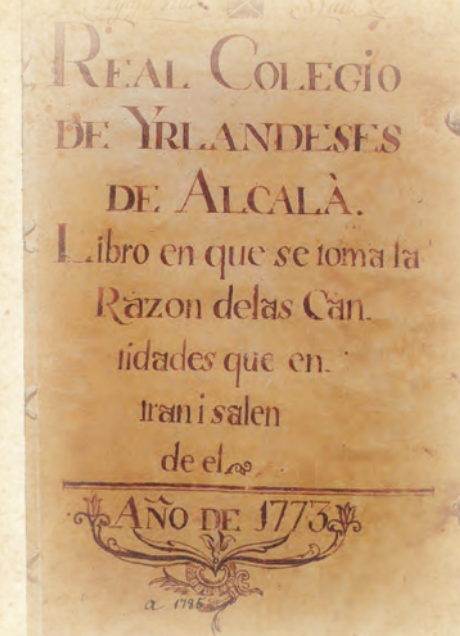
Copy of lease of lands, demarcating the fincas owned by the Irish College, Salamanca 1757

ONLINE CATALOGUE

The online catalogue is now available on the NUIM Library and St Patrick's College website giving researchers online access to the full listings of this wonderfully rich archive for the first time: <http://library.nuim.ie/russell-library/manuscripts-and-archives/salamanca-archives>

The catalogue is fully searchable and listed to international standards. Over time, more material and resources relating to the Irish colleges in Spain will be added making this catalogue an invaluable resource for those interested in Hiberno-Spanish matters.

Digitisation of the Collection: The entire collection will be digitised and stored securely in a digital repository which is scheduled to be completed by 2015. *An Foras Feasa* have also created a digitised, interactive copy of an account book belonging to the Irish College in Alcalá. This digitised version of the account book for the years immediately prior to the college's closure offers a unique insight into the day-to-day running of the college <http://archives.forasfeasa.ie/>



Account book of the Irish College, Alcalá 1773

Daily expenses account book of the Irish College, Salamanca 1771



Invitation to celebrate mass St Patrick's day in the chapel of Irish College, Salamanca 1919

Copy of official letter from King Philip II giving his support towards the foundation of an Irish College, Salamanca 1592



CURRENT RESEARCH

PUBLISHED

ARTICLE IN ARCHIVUM HIBERNICUM

The Irish in Asturias: the footprint of the Irish College, Salamanca, 1913-1950

Richardson, Regina Whelan. In *Archiv. Hib.*, 65. Centenary Ed. 2012

This article traces the history of the clerical students and rectors of the Irish College, Salamanca (Colegio Real de Nobles Irlandeses) on their summer vacations on the northern coast of Spain. The article draws chiefly on rectors' reports to the Irish hierarchy in the Salamanca Archive, held in St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Ireland and on the papers of Alexander McCabe, Rector of the College from 1935-49, held in the National Library of Ireland. A summer house (Casona de Verines) was purchased in the early 1920s and thereafter the holidays were spent in Pendueles, Asturias. This article augments the small body of work that has been published to date on the 20th century history of the Irish College, Salamanca, it documents the Irish presence in Asturias, adding further details to our knowledge of the evacuation of the students on the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. It recounts some of the impressions and experiences of Alexander McCabe as an eye witness to the civil war in Spain as documented in his reports and personal diaries. Two photographs, one from the National Library of Ireland and the second from the collections of St Patrick's College Maynooth are here published for the first time.

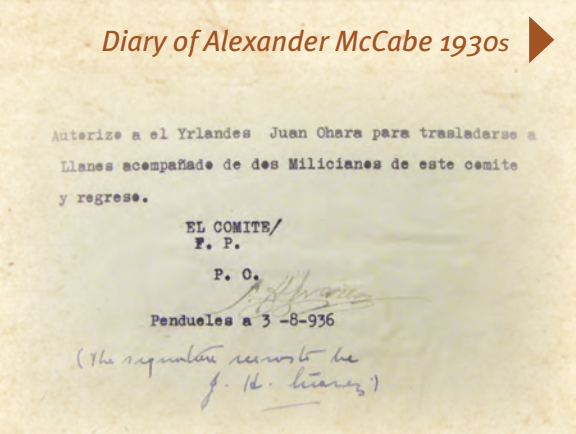
ELECTRONIC LINKS

NUIM ePrints and eTheses Archive <http://eprints.nuim.ie/>

RIAN: Ireland's National Research Portal <http://rian.ie/>



Alexander McCabe on horseback in the Picos de Europa 1943



Casona de Verines 1930s

Safe-conduct for Vice-Rector John O'Hara 3 Aug 1936

Joseph Ranson Rector 1949-1951



Salamanca students in Asturias 1916

IN PROGRESS

Creating a book and an audio archive from unique collections in the NUI Maynooth Library and the National Library of Ireland

BOOK

Selected writings of an Irishman in Spain from the 1920s, 30s and 40s

The Spanish & Irish Diaries of Alexander McCabe

Alexander McCabe was a student at the Irish College, Salamanca (1919-1925), Vice-Rector from 1930 and Rector from 1935-1949. Chronicler of an era, and of ways of living in Ireland and Spain during the first half of the 20th century, this eloquent diarist gives us his wide-ranging thoughts on history, religion, philosophy, society and customs, with insight and wit. On leave in Ireland at the start of the Spanish Civil War in 1936, he returned to Salamanca later that year, also journeying to Asturias where the war was raging and describing conditions there. He remained in the Irish College in Salamanca throughout the civil war and World War II, returning to Ireland in 1949.

His diaries run to some 25 volumes among his collection of papers in the National Library of Ireland. They cover his thoughts and life in Ireland, England and Spain, and his travels to Greece and Italy.

AUDIO ARCHIVE

Developing an NUIM Library open access resource for research and learning

The last two rectors of the Irish College, Salamanca:

- » Interview: Alexander McCabe (NUIM Library 1986)
- » Podcast: Memories of Joseph Ranson (NUIM Library 2014)



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