



# DCU Library

Special Collections & Archives

## **Kenny Family Collection**

### **C2**

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## **KENNY FAMILY COLLECTION**

### **C2/1**

#### **-- Kevin J Kenny**

#### **C2/1/1**

--- Professional Life

#### **C2/1/1/1**

---- Correspondence

#### **C2/1/1/2**

---- British Army recruitment advertising

#### **C2/1/1/3**

---- Belfast Boycott

#### **C2/1/1/4**

---- Government Notices

#### **C2/1/1/5**

---- Kenny's Advertising Agency and Kenny Press

#### **C2/1/2**

--- Personal Life

#### **C2/1/2/1**

---- Personal Mementoes

#### **C2/1/2/2**

---- Battle of Gallipoli

#### **C2/1/3**

--- Published Material and Memorabilia

### **C2/2**

#### **-- Michael B Kenny**

### **C2/3**

#### **-- Colum Kenny**

#### **C2/3/1**

--- Media Career and General Correspondence

#### **C2/3/2**

--- RTÉ Television Documentaries and Current Affairs Programmes

#### **C2/3/2/1**

---- Irish Hospitals' Sweepstake

#### **C2/3/2/2**

---- The Tailor and Ansty

#### **C2/3/2/3**

---- *Frontline* Programme on the sale of National Schools by St Brendan

#### **C2/3/3**

--- Cyril Cusack, Grace Watt and 1 Herbert Terrace, Bray

#### **C2/3/4**

--- Original Finding Aid and Newspaper Cuttings

**Reference Code:** IE DCU/C2  
**Title:** Kenny Family Collection  
**Creation Dates:** 1905-2011  
**Level of Description:** Fonds  
**Extent and Medium:** 3 standard-size archival boxes, 1 oversize archival box  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny, Michael B Kenny and Colum Kenny

**Biographical History:**

The fonds relates to three generations of the Kenny family, specifically Kevin J Kenny (1881-1954), Michael B Kenny (1919-1992) and Colum Kenny (b. 1951).

Kevin J Kenny (1881-1954)

Kevin John Kenny was born on 22 June 1881 at 12 Upper Dorset Street, Dublin, to Michael C Kenny and Catherine Kenny (née Fleming). Michael, a veteran of the Fenian Rising of 1867, worked as a lithographic printer and Catherine as a book-folder. Kevin left school early and started working as an advertising agent at the age of thirteen for the *Irish Wheelman*, a cycling publication. In 1902 he became the manager of the *Leader* newspaper, edited by DP Moran, and published the *Irish Manufacturers' Directory* with MF Phelan. He also established his own advertising firm, K. J. Kenny and Co., around this time. In 1908, he helped establish and was business manager for the *Nationist*, edited by Tom Kettle, and in the same year co-founded the *Nationalist* with Frank Gallagher, PJ Little and Joseph Mary Plunkett.

Kevin founded Kenny's Advertising Agency (KAA), based at Middle Abbey Street, Dublin, in 1906. KAA would go on to become one of the leading advertising agencies in Ireland. As part of his work at the agency, Kevin solicited advertising and worked on publications with several eminent nationalists in the years leading up to and following the 1916 Easter Rising, including Patrick Pearse, Arthur Griffith, Francis Sheehy-Skeffington and James Creed Meredith (see sub-series C2/1/1/1). Kevin also ran a printing business, Kenny's Press, which possibly printed many of these publications. Any particular political sympathies indicated by these services did not prevent Kenny's Advertising Agency from accepting commissions from the British government to run a series of recruitment advertisements during the First World War (see sub-series C2/1/1/2); nor, it would seem, did they prevent Kevin from circulating public notices on behalf of the British government (see sub-series C2/1/1/4). Kenny's Advertising Agency would continue this type of service on behalf of the First and Second Dáils as shown in material included in the following sub-series: C2/1/1/1, C2/1/1/3 and C2/1/1/4.

Running an advertising business during such tumultuous times and providing a service for clients on both sides of the political divide meant that the work of Kenny's Advertising Agency often came in for criticism and scrutiny from various parties. This can be seen in the recruitment advertisements sub-series (C2/1/1/2), and in the sub-series relating to the Belfast Boycott (C2/1/1/3) when Kenny's ran advertisements for 'Lamb's of Inchicore', whose potential presence on a boycott blacklist had to be established by the 'Belfast Trade Boycott Central Committee'.

Outside of the advertising agency, Kevin was involved in numerous professional, Catholic and charitable organisations: he was a founding member of the Publicity Club of Ireland and the Irish Association of Advertising Agencies, and was a leading member of the Catholic Association and general treasurer of the Knights of Saint Columbanus. He was elected president of Dublin Rotary in 1931 and served as the chair of the Children's Fresh Air Fund during the 1930s.

Kevin was also active in public life: he served as the honorary vice-consul for Chile to Ireland, and later served as honorary vice-consul for Portugal [item C2/1/2/1/3 in the fonds relates to the awarding of the Portuguese rank of Cavaleiro of the Military Order of Christ to Kenny in 1948]. Kevin also ran as an independent for Dublin North in the 1923 general election, but was not elected.

Kevin married Annette Murphy in 1910 and they had five children: Kevin, Kathleen, Colum, Maura and Michael. Kevin died on 14 September 1954 in Glasnevin, Dublin.

#### Michael B Kenny (1919-1992)

Michael [?Brendan] Kenny was born on 29 September 1919 to Kevin J Kenny and Annette Kenny (née Murphy). He attended school at the Dominican Convent in Wicklow Town, County Wicklow; Loreto College, North Great George's Street, Dublin; Belvedere College, Dublin, and Clongowes Wood College, Clane, County Kildare.

He worked at Kenny's Advertising Agency and became managing-director of the agency when his father Kevin J Kenny died in 1954. Like his father, Michael was a leading figure in the Irish advertising sector and was involved in numerous professional bodies. At various points throughout the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, he was president of the Institute of Advertising Practitioners; president of the Irish Association of Advertisers; president of the Irish Association of Advertising Agencies, and chair of the Publicity Club of Ireland. Like his father, Michael was an active member of the Dublin Rotary (he was elected president of the Rotary Club of Dun Laoghaire in 1973), was a Knight of Saint Columbanus, and served as Portuguese Consul to Ireland for a period.

In 1963, Michael oversaw the move of Kenny's Advertising Agency from Abbey Street to new premises in Lower Baggot Street, Dublin. His eldest son Stuart succeeded him as managing director of the agency in 1974.

Michael was a keen golfer and cricketer, and was president of Dun Laoghaire Bowling Club at one point. He was a member of the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association from 1935 until his death.

Michael married Eileen Morgan in 1942 and they had four children: Stuart, Brendan, Colum and May. Michael died on 5 September 1992 in Dalkey, Dublin.

### Colum Kenny (b. 1954)

Columcille Joseph Kenny was born on 7 March 1951 in Dublin to Michael B Kenny and Eileen Kenny (née Morgan). Colum studied law and qualified as a Barrister-at-Law before working at RTÉ from 1977 to 1982 as a current affairs reporter and producer. Colum joined the School of Communications at the National Institute for Higher Education Dublin [now Dublin City University (DCU)] in 1982. He is a former chair of DCU's Masters in Journalism programme and is currently Professor Emeritus.

Colum was a member of the Broadcasting Commission of Ireland/Independent Radio and Television Commission from 1998 to 2003, and was a member of the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland from 2010 to 2015. He was a founding board member of the European Union Media Desk in Ireland, and appointed a member of the Irish government's Media Mergers Advisory Group in 2008. He was also elected an honorary bencher of King's Inns in 2017. Colum is a long-standing journalist and author, and a regular columnist with national Irish newspapers.

### **Archival History:**

Colum Kenny donated the Kenny Family Collection to DCU Library on behalf of the Kenny family on 23 November 2011.

As well as the archival material described in this finding aid, a large number of books and other published material were also donated to DCU Library by Colum Kenny. These books are not included in this finding aid.

A number of letters from Cyril Cusack to Grace Watt, which form part of a series in Kenny Family Collection (see C2/3/3), were donated by Watt to Kenny on 7 January 1994.

### **Scope and Content:**

The fonds relates to the lives and careers of three men from the Kenny Family: Kevin J Kenny (1881-1954), his son Michael B Kenny (1919-1992), and Michael's son Colum Kenny (b. 1951). The collection is arranged in three sub-fonds relating to the three men respectively.

The majority of the collection relates to Kevin J Kenny and his work at Kenny's Advertising Agency. The sub-fonds relating to Kevin includes correspondence with many of his clients, some of whom included eminent nationalists of the day, such as Patrick Pearse, Arthur Griffith, Francis Sheehy-Skeffington and James Creed Meredith. Kenny solicited advertising for the publications of many of these figures, which often proved essential in keeping the publications afloat and in circulation, as evidenced in particular by the letters from Patrick Pearse regarding advertisements for *An Macaomh*, the official magazine of St Enda's. This sub-fonds also includes several sub-series relating to significant episodes in Kevin's career and life, such as the controversy over Kenny's Advertising Agency and a contract to run British Army recruitment advertisements during the First World War, and personal memorabilia and publications relating to significant historical events, such as the 1916 Easter Rising, the War of Independence and Civil War.

This sub-fonds also includes a collection of British Army transcribed signals from the first day of the Battle of Gallipoli (25 April 1915), which give a vivid insight into the harrowing experience of some British soldiers fighting on the front line that day. These signals may have come into Kevin J Kenny's possession from his wife Annette's brother John Murphy, whose signature may be the 'J Murphy' included on some of the signals.

This sub-fonds relating to Michael B Kenny consists of a few items concerning his career in advertising. These include a brief history of the Kenny's Advertising Agency written by Michael, and two photographs: one of meeting of the Advertising/Press Club in 1956 or 1957, and the other of the Kenny's Advertising Agency premises at Lower Baggot Street, Dublin.

The final sub-fonds in the collection mainly relates to Colum Kenny's work on three documentaries for RTÉ, and some of his personal correspondence with various figures relating to topics such as the media, law and Irish history. One of the sub-series relates to Colum's research for a documentary about 'The Tailor and Ansty'. The Tailor and Ansty (husband and wife Timothy ['the Tailor'] and Anastasia ['Ansty'] Buckley) were the subjects of a book by Eric Cross about their storytelling and home in Gougane Barra, County Cork, which became a hub for notable figures of the Cork arts scene in the 1930s and 1940s. The sub-series includes letters from Eric Cross and friends of the Tailor and Ansty, including Seán Ó Faoláin and Nancy McCarthy-Allitt. Two of the other sub-series relating to Colum's work on RTÉ current affairs television programmes are currently closed and access will be reviewed in 2025

Another series relates to connections between Colum Kenny's house, 1 Herbert Terrace, Bray, County Wicklow, and two of its former residents: Cyril Cusack and Grace Watt (née Muggerridge). The series mainly consists of correspondence between Kenny, Cusack and Watt during the early 1990s in which they reminisce about living in the house, and discuss Cusack and Watt's personal lives.

**Arrangement:**

The arrangement of the fonds when it was donated to DCU Library by Colum Kenny has mostly been maintained. Colum included a finding aid with the fonds with detailed descriptions of certain items and transcriptions of several handwritten letters. Some of these descriptions have been maintained, while some have been edited and/or supplemented with further contextual information when necessary. The majority of the sub-fonds, series, sub-series, file and item descriptions in this finding aid have been written by the archivist.

**Access Conditions:**

Available by appointment with the archivist at DCU Library Special Collections & Archives.

**Language:**

English, Irish, Portuguese and German.

**Physical Characteristics:**

Numerous items are written or typed on very thin paper that could tear or crease easily from handling. Several letters and notes are handwritten and can be difficult to read. Colum Kenny included transcriptions of some of the letters in the fonds and these are included in certain file/item descriptions in this finding aid.

A number of extremely fragile documents are included in the collection. These items should only be handled if completely necessary. To avoid unnecessary handling, these items have been digitised and high-resolution images are available in the reading room for consultation. Please consult with the archivist for access.

**Finding Aids:**

A finding aid is available on the DCU Library website and in the DCU Library Special Collections & Archives reading room.

A finding aid created by Colum Kenny that was originally included with the collection when he donated it to DCU Library is also available for consultation; see series: C2/3/4.

**Related Material:**

Some of the corresponding letters to those included in sub-series C2/3/2/2 written by Colum Kenny to Nancy McCarthy-Allitt are available in the Nancy McCarthy Collection, Archives Service, UCC Library, University College Cork:  
[https://libguides.ucc.ie/ld.php?content\\_id=31770181](https://libguides.ucc.ie/ld.php?content_id=31770181)

**Publication Note:**

Kenny, Colum. *Irish Patriot, Publisher and Advertising Agent: Kevin J. Kenny (1881-1954)*. Bray: Ox Pictures, 2011.

Kenny, Colum. 'Kenny, Kevin John'. *Dictionary of Irish Biography*. (ed.) James McGuire, James Quinn. Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 2015. (<http://dib.cambridge.org/viewReadPage.do?articleId=a9799>)

*Irish Independent*, 7 September 1992, page 15.

Oram, Hugh. *The Advertising Book: the History of Advertising in Ireland*. Dublin: MO Books, 1986.

**Archivist's Note:**

Felix Meehan, Archivist, Special Collections & Archives, DCU Library.

**Rules or Convention**

*ISAD(G): General International Standard Archival Description*. 2nd ed. Ottawa: International Council on Archives, 2000.

*Irish Guidelines for Archival Description*. Edition 1.0. Ireland: Society of Archivists, 2009.

**Date of Description:**

Finding aid prepared August 2019.



**Reference Code:** C2/1  
**Title:** Kevin J Kenny  
**Creation Dates:** 1905-2010  
**Level of Description:** Sub-fonds  
**Extent and Medium:** 3 series, 7 sub-series  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny and Colum Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** Sub-fonds relates to the professional and personal aspects of Kevin J Kenny's life. The majority of the series concerns Kevin's professional life, specifically his work as an advertising agent and commercial manager with his company, Kenny's Advertising Agency.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1  
**Title:** Professional Life  
**Creation Dates:** 1905-2010  
**Level of Description:** Series  
**Extent and Medium:** 5 sub-series, 80 items  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny and Colum Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** Series mainly relates to the early part of Kevin J Kenny's career as managing director of Kenny's Advertising Agency, with numerous letters from clients relating to advertisements in various newspapers and publications. Several of these clients were leading figures of nationalist movements of the day, such as Patrick Pearse, Francis Sheehy-Skeffington, Arthur Griffith, and James Creed Meredith, and later, representatives of the Second Dáil. The series (and its constituent sub-series) reflect the dramatic changes that were taking place in the Irish political landscape, with various parties from across the political and social spectrum seeking Kenny's services in his capacity as a commercial manager. Thus, the series includes letters and notices from the aforementioned leading nationalists among others, but also British establishment figures and offices of government, such as the Admiralty, War Office and Press Committee in London.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/1  
**Title:** Correspondence  
**Creation Dates:** [1905]-3 December 1925  
**Level of Description:** Sub-series  
**Extent and Medium:** 24 items  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny and Colum Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** Correspondence mainly relating to Kevin J Kenny's work as an advertising agency and commercial manager for Kenny's Advertising Agency and other publications.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/1/1  
**Title:** Note from Roger Casement to 'the Manager' of the *Nationist* newspaper.  
**Creation Dates:** [1905-1906]  
**Level of Description:** Item  
**Extent and Medium:** 1 page  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** Undated note from Roger Casement to 'The Manager, The "Nationist", 53 Middle Abbey Street, Dublin'. Note reads: 'Dear Sir, I should be obliged if you would now send my copy of the "Nationist" to the Quay, Ballycastle, Antrim instead of to the English address hitherto given. Yours faithfully, Roger Casement.'

The note is handwritten on headed paper from Exchange Station Hotel (Lanc & York Rly), Liverpool [the address is scored out]. The *Nationist*, edited by Tom Kettle, was a weekly newspaper that appeared in 1905 and 1906. Kenny was the business manager of the newspaper.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/1/2  
**Title:** Letters from Patrick Pearse to Kevin J Kenny regarding printing of *An Macaomh*.

**Creation Dates:** 7 December 1910  
**Level of Description:** File  
**Extent and Medium:** 4 items  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny and Colum Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** File consists of the following:

4 December 1910 – C2/1/1/1/2 (1)

Handwritten letter reads 'A chara, We must print off 'An Macaomh' on Monday or Tuesday next, so as to have it on sale before Aonach na Nolag is over and before the boys go home for vacation. I hope you have made good progress with advts. [advertisements] and hand in copy as you get it to Dollard. Make a great effort this time to have advts. up to mark. Last issue would have paid if advts. had been anything like they were in first issue. We must make this issue pay. No time is to be lost. [P.S.] You should get advts. from William Magee, Grocer, 7 Rathmines [Terrace], W. Landy, Bakeries, Rathfarnham, and Meyers & Co., Furniture Removers, Ironmongers, etc., 44 Highfield Rd., with all of whom we are dealing largely this year; try also P. Horan, Tailor, 63 Dame St., who has three boys here. Also McCabes, Fishmongers, Rathmines Road, and L. Nugent, Irish Creamery, Lr. Baggot St., with whom we deal.'

12 December 1910 – C2/1/1/1/2 (2)

Handwritten letter reads 'A chara, Enclosed have been sent to me. You had better return them to Dollard, corrected. I have only corrected the obvious mistakes in the Irish, not read them through carefully, so you will have to do this. For God's sake make the best use you can of these two days, and have as many advts [advertisements] as possible by to-morrow night. Try Eastman's, Rathmines, and Purcell, Cigar Merchant, 16 [?North] Earl St. Make a good show. It will be a good number. P.H. Pearse'.

C2/1/1/1/2 (3)

Printout of advertisement in the *Irish Independent* newspaper, dated 21 June 1909, [?possibly sourced from [www.irishnewsarchive.com](http://www.irishnewsarchive.com)]. Part of the advertisement

reads: 'An Macaomh. Edited by P. H. Pearse and written by the masters and pupils of St Enda's School. Contributions by the editor (including the text of Cuchulainn Pageant, to be performed at St Enda's School on June 22nd), T. P. O'Nolan, Thomas MacDonagh, Thomas MacDonnell, Dr. J P. Kenny, etc. etc. An Macaomh will be a literary and educational review, rather than a school magazine in the ordinary sense. Illustrated. Price one shilling.' Includes handwritten annotation in pencil giving the date of the cutting [?by Colum Kenny].

C2/1/1/1/2 (4)

Newspaper cutting from the *Sunday Independent* newspaper dated 15 April 2001 with an article by Colum Kenny about the Pearse-Kenny letters.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/1/3

**Title:** Letter from James Creed Meredith to Kevin J Kenny.

**Creation Dates:** 4 February 1915

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Handwritten letter on headed paper with 'The National Volunteers. 44 Parnell Square, Dublin.' Heading also includes an image of Parliament House, College Green, Dublin, with the motto 'Defence Not Defiance' underneath.

Letter reads 'Dear Kenny, The National Committee fixed the next meeting of the Newspaper Subcommittee for next Monday evening at 8 p.m. They told me to tell you and to ask you to prepare specifications to submit to the different firms. I enclose my suggestions in this respect. Yours truly, James C. Meredith' [Meredith's suggestions are not included with letter].

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/1/4

**Title:** Letter envelopes sent to Kevin J Kenny that were opened by the censor.

**Creation Dates:** [22 May 1915]-[?4] October 1920

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 5 envelopes

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** The related letters are not included in the Kenny Family Collection.

Item C2/1/1/1/4 (1): Registered from Lisbon, addressed to 'Manager, 'New Ireland', 65 [?55] Middle Abbey Street, Dublin.' Includes a Portuguese postage stamp and wax seal of 'Societe Torlades'. Stamped on back of envelope '26MY15 London'. Resealed with paper marked 'OPENED BY CENSOR'.

Item C2/1/1/1/4 (2): Addressed to 'The Kenny Press, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin, Ireland'. 'On active service' is written in the same handwriting at top. No postage stamp on envelope but stamped with 'Field Post Office, 16 JY 18' [16 July 1918]. Also stamped 'Passed by Censor'.

Item C2/1/1/1/4 (3): Addressed to 'Kevin J Kenny Esq., JP., 56, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin, Ireland (IRLANDA)'. Includes Chilean postage stamp. Stamped Santiago, [9 Oct 19. 6 P.M.]. Printed on reverse is 'Patrick J Kenny, Bandera 115, Casilla 1032, Santiago' (Patrick was Kevin J Kenny's brother). Resealed with paper marked 'OPENED BY CENSOR'. Kevin J Kenny was appointed to the Vice-Consulship of the Chilean Government in Ireland in 1910.

Item C2/1/1/1/4 (4): Addressed to 'Messrs Kenny's Ltd Abbey St'. Resealed with paper marked 'Officially sealed in the Post Office.' Stamped 'Received open from Military Authorities'. Postmarked Dublin, [?4] [October] 1920. Also includes two penny red stamps.

Item C2/1/1/1/4 (5): Addressed to 'Mr Kenny, 65 & 66 Middle Abbey Street'. Resealed with paper marked 'Officially sealed in the Post Office.' Stamped 'Received

open from Military Authorities'. Postmark is dated '[?7] [October] 1920'.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/1/5

**Title:** Letter from Francis Sheehy-Skeffington to Kevin J Kenny regarding advertisements in the *Irish Citizen* newspaper.

**Creation Dates:** 25 January 1916

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Letter reads: 'Dear Mr. Kenny, [e]nclosed is list of advertisers reserved by Mrs. Larkin. They are all firms which have been recently, or are still, advertisers in the paper, and with which Mrs Larkin has been personally in touch. We shall revise this list from time to time, always keeping you informed. If there is any other information you require before setting to work on the Irish Citizen advts, please let me know. The first monthly issue will be printed on or about Feb 11th. I will call on you this day fortnight (Feb 9th) to see your haul. We want about £2 worth of new advts. to square that issue. Yours faithfully, F Sheehy Skeffington.'

The list of advertisers is not included with the letter. Francis, along with James Cousins, edited the *Irish Citizen*, which was the newspaper of the Irish Women's Franchise League. The League was founded in 1908 by Francis and James' wives Hanna and Margaret. Francis was executed just three months after writing this letter during the Easter Rising.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/1/6

**Title:** Note from Arthur Griffith to Kevin J Kenny.

**Creation Dates:** [c. 1916]

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Undated holograph note reads: 'Mr Moylett wishes to see Mr McCabe. Can you give him his address ...'

['Mr Moylett' is most likely Patrick Moylett, who worked closely with Griffith, and 'Mr McCabe' may be Alexander McCabe who was elected Sinn Féin MP for Sligo in 1918].

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/1/7

**Title:** Letter from [Isaac] W Bullen of Jeremiah Lyon & Company Limited, London to Kevin J Kenny.

**Creation Dates:** 23 October 1917

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Typed and signed letter states that a cheque for £500 is enclosed to hold at the disposal of Mr E Aston.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/1/8

**Title:** Letter from [?Kevin J Kenny] to John T Donovan BL MP, 1 Heathfield Villas, Terenure, Dublin.

**Creation Dates:** 24 December 1917

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Kenny asks that Donovan accept the enclosed 'little gift as a mark of my appreciation of your efforts on my behalf in connection with the "International Magna Carta" campaign'. Unsigned copy letter with Kenny's Advertising Agency header.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/1/9

**Title:** Letter from William [John] Henry Brayden, 28 Adelaide Road, Dublin to Kevin J Kenny.

**Creation Dates:** 28 December 1918  
**Level of Description:** Item  
**Extent and Medium:** 1 page  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** Brayden thanks Kenny for pipes and tobacco 'with which I consoled myself at Christmas [...] it gratifies me [...] to know that my association with you has gained in your good will'.

According to the *Dictionary of Irish Biography*, Brayden was editor of the *Freeman's Journal* newspaper from 1892-1916, and 'was heavily involved in army recruitment during the First World War (for which he was appointed OBE in 1920), and undertook some anti-Sinn Féin propaganda work for Dublin Castle in 1918-19.' Brayden's son, a member of the London Irish Rifles and himself a former journalist of the *Freeman's Journal*, had been killed in action in Palestine on 23 December 1917 during the First World War.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/1/10  
**Title:** Letter from the Boundary Commission (Ireland), Local Government Board, Dublin to Kevin J Kenny.  
**Creation Dates:** 16 November 1917  
**Level of Description:** Item  
**Extent and Medium:** 1 page  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** Letter requests that a statement (included) regarding the redistribution of constituency seats be inserted in as many newspapers as possible.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/1/11  
**Title:** Letter from [?AJ Knox], Captain ARCAEJ [?Australian Red Cross AEJ], King George Hospital, London to Kevin J Kenny.  
**Creation Dates:** 1 August 1919



**Level of Description:** Item  
**Extent and Medium:** 1 page  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** Holograph letter in which [?Knox] thanks Kenny for cheque [?for an article he had written for one of Kenny's publications] and says '[I] hope you people shall be free as air as soon as possible. If there is anything of importance happening I wish you and the Irish of Ireland to know there are many people sympathising with your cause...'

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/1/12  
**Title:** Letter from Thomas Rutledge, Under Sheriff, Westport, County Mayo to Kenny's Advertising Agency.  
**Creation Dates:** 23 April 1921

**Level of Description:** Item  
**Extent and Medium:** 1 page  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** Letter concerns the handling of advertisements for the parliamentary elections in the following newspapers: *Mayo News*; *Western People*; *Ballina Herald* and *Connaught Telegraph*.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/1/13  
**Title:** Telegrams for Kenny's Advertising Agency requesting issues of the Irish Bulletin be sent to Malcolm Lyon, Studland Manor, Studland near Swanage, [UK].  
**Creation Dates:** 24 August 1921

**Level of Description:** File  
**Extent and Medium:** 4 items  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** File includes one complete and one partial telegram addressed to Kenny's Advertising Agency. Telegram reads: 'Please send to Malcolm Lyon Studland Manor Studland near Swanage all issues of the Irish Bulletin there should be no difficulty if it is known the bulletin is required by one

whom Arthur Griffiths [sic] so frequently described as a secret agent of the British Government.'

A collection of letters written by Arthur Griffith sold by James Adam and Sons Limited (Adam's Auctioneers) on 28 April 2009, give some further context to this telegram and the Griffith-Lyon association. The following is quoted from the auction catalogue, *Arthur Griffith (1871-1922): Nine smuggled letters from English Jails*:

'An important group of nine autograph signed letters to [Charles] Murphy [manager of Griffith's paper *Nationality*], written from detention in England, May-November 1918, the first from a military camp at Holyhead, the remainder from Gloucester Prison, each carefully dated by the recipient [...] The present letters are mainly concerned with arrangements for Griffith's newspaper *Nationality*, where Murphy was manager, and particularly with Griffith's concerns over a lawsuit by a [Dublin] Castle employee named Malcolm Lyon, which he had to defend while the prison authorities refused to allow him to receive copies of the relevant newspapers. He repeatedly asks for copies of newspapers including *Nationality*, and repeatedly reports that they have been prevented from reaching him. In a letter dated 1 July: "Is Lyon [the Castle litigant] still posing as an unpaid philanthropist? While this person is directed to take legal proceedings against my paper, I am not permitted to see the paper. I trust the fellow will persevere. The exposure of his employers would serve a useful purpose" [Lyon was a Dublin Castle employee of unsavoury reputation, who sued over a passing reference in an article in *Nationality*. His action was unsuccessful.] On 12 August: "No numbers of my paper have yet reached me [...] I have been kept in ignorance of the proceedings of Malcolm Lyon against my property by those who have placed us here, and who while publishing to us orders professing to facilitate us in attending to our business here, have up to the present withheld every copy of my paper sent to me. Were it not for some paragraphs in the English press I would not even have known that an action had been instituted [...]" Some sections of these letters were published at the time by Murphy in *Nationality*, and short extracts are quoted from this source in Dr Sean O Luing's

Griffith biography [*Art O Griofa: reamhra le Pádraig O Caoimh* (Dublin, 1953)]; otherwise they are unpublished.'

A photocopy of the telegrams and printout from the Adam's Auctioneers website relating to the auction is also included in the file.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/1/14

**Title:** Letters from Officer Commanding, Dublin Brigade, Óglaigh na h-Éireann to Kevin J Kenny.

**Creation Dates:** 9 September 1921-23 September 1921

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 2 letters

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Consists of a request for a donation of a prize for one of the amateur contestants in a boxing tournament in aid of Brigade funds, and a subsequent letter thanking Kenny for his donation.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/1/15

**Title:** Letter from Labhras Breathnac, Secretary, Ministry of Fine Arts, Dáil Éireann to the Manager, Kenny's Advertising Agency.

**Creation Dates:** 31 October 1921

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Breathnac requests a meeting 'about a matter of getting publicity for one of this Department's undertakings'.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/1/16

**Title:** Note from Máirín bean Uí Riain, Department of Foreign Affairs, Dáil Éireann [to Kevin J Kenny].

**Creation Dates:** 1 December 1921

**Level of Description:** Item  
**Extent and Medium:** 1 page  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** Note reads: 'Please do not insert [advertisement] for Benoit's book till [*sic*] you hear from me again as I have written to S[eán] T O'Ceallaigh for further instructions.'

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/1/17

**Title:** Note from E Downey [?Edmund Downey], *Poblacht na h-Éireann/Republic of Ireland* newspaper, 23 Suffolk Street, Dublin [to Kevin J Kenny].

**Creation Dates:** 2 March 1922

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Typed note on headed paper that lists Liam Mellows TD [*sic*] as editor, Frank Gallagher as assistant editor and Joseph McDonagh TD as manager of the newspaper.

Note reads as follows: 'A Chara: Please give bearer map same as he has. Have you any other information in connection with present elections for 26 counties? Mise, Do Chara, E Downey'. Also listed is a 'Committee of Direction' which includes: 'Cathal Brugha TD; Austin Stack TD; Scelig (JJ O'Kelly TD); Constance De Markievicz TD; Miss MacSwiney TD; Sean Etchingham TD; Erskine Childers TD; ST O Ceallaigh TD; Mrs O'Callaghan TD, and Robert Brennan'.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/1/18

**Title:** Letters from Eóin P Ó Caoimh, 4 College Green, [Dublin] [?to Kevin J Kenny].

**Creation Dates:** 12 February 1923-19 February 1923

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 2 letters

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** File consists of two holograph letters from Ó Caoimh. The first from 12 February 1923 reads: 'A chara dhílis, [t]hanks for pamphlets. Unfortunately the one I wanted was not included, but I have borrowed the [Sir James] Craig-LG [Lloyd George] correspondence. Could you write to the Sec.-General League of Nations, Geneva for the rules or provisions governing the taking of recent plebiscites in Central Europe?'

The second letter from 19 February reads: 'A chara, I fear that if executions be not stayed my worst fears will be realised.' The second note is possibly a reference to the execution by Free State forces of Irish Republican Army prisoners during the Civil War. Colum Kenny suggests: 'This was, presumably, the same Eoin Ó Caoimh who acted as secretary of the Re-Organising Committee of Sinn Féin (see his letter to the editor, *Irish Times*, 6 September 1923, page 7).'

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/1/19

**Title:** Envelope addressed to 'Kevin J Kenny' with a receipt of payment signed by George Barrett.

**Creation Dates:** 3 December 1925

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 2 pages

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Receipt is scribbled on the reverse of the envelope for the amount of £34.10.0. It is signed by 'Geo. Barrett' and refers to insertions. Envelope includes a used half-penny postage stamp.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/2

**Title:** British Army recruitment advertising

**Creation Dates:** 8 January 1916-30 June 2010

**Level of Description:** Sub-series

**Extent and Medium:** 13 items

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Letters, newspaper cuttings and published material relating to the granting of a contract to publish army recruitment advertisements to Kenny's Advertising Agency on behalf of the British government. This episode appears to have caused a significant amount of discussion and controversy in various newspapers and publications of the day, and was also discussed by Laurence Ginnell MP during a debate in the British House of Commons.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/2/1

**Title:** Letters from Kevin J Kenny to the *Cork Constitution* newspaper and an unidentified editor.

**Creation Dates:** 8 January 1916-[?12 January 1916]

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 2 pages

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Two letters on a single sheet of Kenny Advertising Agency headed paper. On the front side is a copy of a typed letter from Kenny's Advertising Agency to the manager of the *Cork Constitution* newspaper, dated 8 January 1916. Letter seeks on behalf of the Department of Recruiting for Ireland the return of the stereo plate of King George V's 'message' supplied to that publication 'some short time ago'. On the

reverse of the page is an undated and possibly unpublished handwritten draft of a letter to [?a newspaper editor].

The handwritten letter seeks to respond to allegations about the recruiting campaign (also discussed in item C2/1/1/2/2) which reads as follows:

'Sir, May I trespass again on your valuable space to reply to certain statements which are being circulated in regard to the recruiting advertisements recently issued by Kenny's Advertising Agency on behalf of the Department of Recruiting for Ireland. I would not trouble to reply to these statements were it not that the obvious intention of their authors is to suggest that this Agency was a party to some underhand scheme to buy over the press to support the recruiting campaign. Let me repeat, therefore, that [~~the contract which we received from~~] the arrangement between ourselves and the Department of Recruiting for the insertion of advertisements in papers throughout Ireland was entirely and absolutely a commercial transaction, accepted by us and executed exactly as is the advertising of our other clients including numerous Public Bodies and Government Departments. The advertisements were inserted throughout at very reasonable rates, and the suggestion that some papers received payment at the rate of a thousand per cent more than their charges for commercial advertisements is simply nonsense. So, too, is the statement that we received cheques amounting to £10,000. Equally absurd is the statement that our profit in this transaction was anything from £2,000 to £2,500. Neither is there an atom of truth in the ridiculous allegation that two months ago (or at any other time) we were handed a cheque by the recruiting authority which we complained was too small, whereupon the amount was increased! I wonder if the gentlemen who are circulating these statements realise how foolish they are making themselves. It may be news to some of them that long before the war started the War Office had begun to advertise for recruits by means of press advertisements. These advertisements were issued for both Irish and English papers by a London Advertising Agency. So, also, were all the advertisements right down to the establishment

of the Department of Recruiting in Ireland some months ago. Not till then did any Irish Advertising Agency succeed in convincing the War Office that advertisements for Irish papers should be issued through Irish agents, rather than through London. The Dublin Industrial Development Association has been agitating, and with considerable success, for more war contracts to be placed in Ireland; but evidently, in the opinion of the gentlemen alluded to above both ourselves and Messrs Eason's Agency (who share the Irish advertising with us) should have declined this contract and forced the Irish Department of Recruiting to issue their advertisements through a London Agency. Yours etc, 65 Middle Abbey St, Dublin.'

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/2/2

**Title:** Payments to Kevin J Kenny for recruitment advertisements.

**Creation Dates:** 12 January 1916-14 January 1916

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 7 items

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Includes six newspaper cuttings glued to 'Kenny's Press Cutting Bureau' forms concerning questions raised by Laurence Ginnell MP in the British House of Commons about payments made to Kevin J Kenny of £3000 and £7000 respectively, for issuing recruitment advertisements to the press. Also includes a copy of a typed letter from Kenny 'to the editor', dated 12 January 1916, and two cuttings of the same letter from the *Irish Independent* and the *Freeman's Journal* on 13 January 1916. Kenny claims in the letter that he has 'not received one penny piece from Dublin Castle.'

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/2/3

**Title:** Two issues of *Honesty* journal.

**Creation Dates:** 22 January 1916-19 February 1916

**Level of Description:** File



**Extent and Medium:** 2 items

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** File consists of issue I (number 15), dated 22 January 1916, and issue I (number 19), dated 19 February 1916. Issue I (number 15) includes an article on the questions raised by Laurence Ginnell MP in the British House of Commons about payments made to Kevin J Kenny for recruitment advertisements. Article also discusses Kenny's letter in response to these questions that was published in several newspapers. Issue I (number 19) discusses British army recruitment as well as other topics. *Honesty* was edited by 'Gilbert Galbraith', a pseudonym used by James W Upton.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/2/4

**Title:** Issue of the *Spark* journal.

**Creation Dates:** 23 April 1916

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 4 pages

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Issue III (number 64), dated 23 April 1916. The main article in the journal is titled 'Recruitment Ads' and mentions 'K.A.A.' [Kenny's Advertising Agency]. The *Spark* was edited by 'Ed. Dalton', a pseudonym used by James W Upton.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/2/5

**Title:** Priority Reference and Classification permit granted to the Irish Recruiting Council.

**Creation Dates:** 24 July 1918

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Permit was issued by SP Richardson, Deputy Controller, Priority Department, Ministry of Munitions of War, London,

to the Irish Recruiting Council, 23 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 'for orders not to exceed a total of 1 ton of Stereo Metal for setting up type for the purposes of your council [...]'

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/2/6

**Title:** Letter from LR Bradley, Keeper of Publicity Records, Imperial War Museum, London to Kevin J Kenny.

**Creation Dates:** 28 August 1918-30 June 2010

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 2 items

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Bradley reminds Kenny of his past help to the museum and seeks a set of advertisements 'in connection with Lord French's Voluntary Enlistment plan'.

File also includes a letter from Anthony Richards, archivist at the Imperial War Museum to Colum Kenny, dated 30 June 2010, stating that he could not find any other correspondence between Kevin J Kenny and the museum. See related correspondence between the Imperial War Museum and Colum Kenny in sub-series C2/1/2/2.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/3

**Title:** Belfast boycott

**Creation Dates:** 4 August [?1920]-16 November 1921

**Level of Description:** Sub-series

**Extent and Medium:** 3 items

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Notes and leaflet relating to the 'Belfast Boycott'. Dáil Éireann introduced this boycott in September 1920 in response to rioting in Derry and Belfast and discrimination against the Catholic community in Northern Ireland. It would appear from the items in this sub-series that Kevin J Kenny was concerned with ensuring that the activities of his business did not go against the boycott.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/3/1

**Title:** Note from S Mac Oireachtaigh, Belfast Trade Boycott Central Committee, Dublin, to Officer Commanding, Dublin Brigade, [IRA].

**Creation Dates:** 4 August [?1920]

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Typed note responds to a letter regarding 'Lamb's of Inchicore, [Dublin]' and whether or not their 'factory' is on the boycott 'Black List'. Mac Oireachtaigh says that a factory in Portadown, [County Armagh], owned by another member of the Lamb family is on the list, but that '[Kevin J] Kenny' is 'justified in inserting the ad[vertisement]' for Lamb's of Inchicore.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/3/2

**Title:** Dáil Éireann Belfast Boycott leaflet.

**Creation Dates:** [?September] 1920

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Notice states that 'Dail Eireann [sic] has decreed that the imposition of religious or political tests as a condition of industrial employment is illegal', and that '[a]ttempts are being made to impose such tests in Belfast, and thousands of workmen and workwomen have been forcibly driven from their employment ...' The notice also states that '[u]ntil this tyranny ceases and the expelled workers are restored, goods manufactured in or distributed from Belfast must not be purchased or received elsewhere.'

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/3/3

**Title:** Note from S Mac Oireachtaigh, Belfast Trade Boycott Central Committee, to Kevin J Kenny.

**Creation Dates:** 16 November 1921

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Mac Oireachtaigh acknowledges Kenny's letter concerning a 'Mr Wyatt' and states that it has been referred to the Minister for Trade and Commerce.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/4

**Title:** Government Notices

**Creation Dates:** 29 September 1915-11 August 1921

**Level of Description:** Sub-series

**Extent and Medium:** 35 items

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Public notices created by the British government, and subsequently Dáil Éireann, for advertising in newspapers and other publications.

  

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/4/1

**Title:** Notice from R McKenna, Treasury Chambers, London regarding the payment of wages in gold.

**Creation Dates:** 29 September 1915

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Printed page from McKenna thanking those employers who have substituted notes for gold for the purposes of paying wages in order to strengthen UK gold reserves.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/4/2

**Title:** Notice and order from the Ministry of Munitions regarding construction.

**Creation Dates:** [1915]-7 August 1917

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 2 items

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** File includes: undated printed notice clarifying Ministry of Munitions regulation that 'no building or construction work costing over £500, or involving the use of constructional steel, can be undertaken without a licence from the Ministry', including 'work involved in the restoration of property destroyed or damaged by fire or aircraft'; and an order dated 7 August 1917 from the Minister of Munitions revoking earlier orders regarding road stone quarries.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/4/3

**Title:** Notice from the Admiralty, War Office and Press Committee, London regarding the publication of details of air raids.

**Creation Dates:** 15 September 1915

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Stencil copy notice marked 'not for publication' warning against 'the publication of any information which, directly or indirectly, gives details of an air raid, of the places visited, or the damage done'. Warns that statements such as 'owing to a recent fire caused by enemy bombs' or 'in consequence of the destruction of their premises' are forbidden. Notice is signed by [?E. Robbins].

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/4/4

**Title:** Notices from Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Decies, Press Censor, Press Censor's Office, 85 Grafton Street, Dublin to

the 'Editors, All Newspapers, Ireland' regarding the publication of details of various events and subjects.

**Creation Dates:** 8 June 1917-27 June 1918

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 25 items

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Stencil copy notices marked 'Confidential. Not for publication or communication', and are addressed to 'Editors, All Newspapers, Ireland'. Some of the events that the notices relate to include: the arrival or departure of hospital ships from Ireland; a disturbance that took place in Dublin on 10 June 1917 when Count George Noble Plunkett and others attempted to hold a meeting; memorial notices referring to the 1916 Easter Rising, and the movement of American troops being sent to Ireland.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/4/5

**Title:** Notice from [?Lieutenant J Corcoran], the Press Censor's Office, 85 Grafton Street, Dublin to Kevin J Kenny.

**Creation Dates:** 20 July 1918-21 July 1918

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 2 items

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Stencil copy notice marked 'Confidential. Not for publication or communication' and reads: 'With reference to your letter of July 19th enclosing copy of a poster about to be issued by 'the Irish League of Nations Society', I have no objection to the issue of same.' File also includes an envelope [?for the letter] addressed to Kenny, with a list of fifteen publication titles, of which five are crossed out, handwritten [?by Kenny] on the back.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/4/6

**Title:** Dáil loans documents.

**Creation Dates:** [?August] 1919-17 January 1920

**Level of Description:** File  
**Extent and Medium:** 2 items  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** File consists of a 'Government of the Irish Republic £25000 5% Registered Certificates' form, and appeal from Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins to 'the People of Ireland' to support the National Loan. The appeal states that '... all who lend to Dail Eireann to-day, lend to ensure the dignity, the prosperity, and the independence of the Irish Nation'.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/4/7  
**Title:** Dáil Éireann Trade Department notice: 'Importation and Sale of British Goods Prohibition Order No. 3'.  
**Creation Dates:** 5 May 1921  
**Level of Description:** Item  
**Extent and Medium:** 2 pages  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** Notice by Earnan De Blaghd [Ernest Blythe], Minister of Trade. Includes list of items noted in previous orders 1 and 2 issued by the department. On the reverse of the item is a handwritten list of 22 payments amounting, with a deposit, to £5,804-14-2.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/4/8  
**Title:** Report by the [?Director of Trade and Commerce, Ernest Blythe].  
**Creation Dates:** 11 August 1921  
**Level of Description:** Item  
**Extent and Medium:** 7 pages  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** Stencil copy report with heading: 'Dail Eireann. Trade Department, August 11th, 1921'. Includes the following sub-headings: Consuls; Dressed Meat Trade; Industries; Exclusion of British goods; Commission of Inquiry (fishing, milk products, peat and coal).



**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/5

**Title:** Kenny's Advertising Agency and Kenny Press.

**Creation Dates:** 17 February 1922-[?2011]

**Level of Description:** Sub-series

**Extent and Medium:** 6 items

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Sub-series consists of a pass to enable Kevin J Kenny to visit Kenny's Advertising Agency at Middle Abbey Street after it had been destroyed during the 1916 Easter Rising; a photograph of the first Kenny's Advertising Agency dance, and publications produced by the agency and Kenny Press.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/5/1

**Title:** Pass made out to Kevin J Kenny by the British Intelligence Office.

**Creation Dates:** 1 May 1916

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Pass enables Kenny to travel 'to Middle Abbey Street and back on this date 1st May 1916'. Kenny's offices at 65 Middle Abbey Street had been destroyed during the Easter Rising.

The printed text on the item is quite faded and difficult to read. The pass appears to have been signed by a 'Major' with the title of 'Intelligence Officer, General Staff.'

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/5/2

**Title:** Government of Ireland Act, 1920: Map of Constituencies and Outline of Powers of 'Northern' and 'Southern' Ireland Parliaments; and the Council of Ireland – with an alternative proposal.

**Creation Dates:** March 1921

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 map

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Foldout map of Ireland with 'an alternative proposal' that a constituent Irish assembly be elected to decide how Ireland is to be governed. The proposal is signed, 'The Secretary, The Irish Constituent Assembly Movement, 65 Middle Abbey Street, Dublin, March 1921'. Published by 'Kenny Press, Dublin.' Price: one shilling.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/5/3

**Title:** Photograph of the first Kenny's Advertising Agency dance, 17 February 1922.

**Creation Dates:** [?February] 1922

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 photograph

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Mounted and fading group photograph of the dance attendees in formal dress. Kevin J Kenny and his wife Annette are seated in centre of the second row. The

subtitle on the photograph mount notes that the dance was 'organised by Kenny's Advertising Agency & Sales Staffs'. Photograph by 'Roe McMahon, Group Photographer, 11 Harcourt Street, Dublin'.

This item was scanned by Colum Kenny in 2011. The digital version is available in the reading room for consultation. Please consult with the archivist for access.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/5/4

**Title:** Kenny's Advertising Agency promotional brochure.

**Creation Dates:** [?1923]

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 2 items

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Brochure refers to the agency being 'now 21 years established'. Also describes 'the departmentalisation of this agency, along modern lines' offering new services such as consulting, research, copy and plan, propaganda, printing and engraving, rates, trade, direct mail, press promotion and outdoor. Gives 'London Office 1 Clement's Inn, Strand, W.C.1' as address of the agency. File includes two copies of the four-page brochure.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/1/5/5

**Title:** Irish Manufacturers' Directory, 1902.

**Creation Dates:** [?2011]

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 4 pages

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Black and white printouts of four [?scanned] pages from the directory. The directory was compiled by MF Phelan and Kevin J Kenny, and then solely by Kenny after 1902. Includes first known reference to Kenny's Advertising Agency with a full-page advertisement for the agency. The

address of the company at that time was 200 Great Brunswick Street, Dublin.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/2  
**Title:** Personal Life  
**Creation Dates:** 22 February 1903-29 July 2010  
**Level of Description:** Series  
**Extent and Medium:** 2 sub-series, 14 items  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** Consists of two sub-series. The first relates to personal mementoes such as newspaper cuttings, cards and photographs relating to various events in Kevin J Kenny's life. The second sub-series relates to the Battle of Gallipoli and includes British Army transcribed signals from the front. These signals may have been written by John Murphy, Annette Kenny's (née Murphy) brother and Kevin J Kenny's brother-in-law.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/2/1  
**Title:** Personal mementoes  
**Creation Dates:** 22 February 1903-26 June 1948

**Level of Description:** Sub-series  
**Extent and Medium:** 5 items  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** Personal items and mementoes relating to significant events or causes in Kevin J Kenny's life.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/2/1/1

**Title:** Newspaper cutting from the *Evening Herald* concerning a campaign to make St Patrick's Day a national holiday.

**Creation Dates:** 22 February 1903

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Newspaper cutting includes a report of a meeting of the National Holiday Committee campaigning for St Patrick's Day to be made a national holiday. Those reported as present included Kevin J Kenny. Cutting also includes letter received from Archbishop of Dublin, William J Walsh in support of the campaign.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/2/1/2

**Title:** Ministry of Food Sugar Registration Card for Kevin J Kenny.

**Creation Dates:** [1918]

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Card includes Kenny's address and other details: '279 North Circular Road, Dublin. Retailer: Geo Ed [?George Edward] Kelly, 348 N.C. Rd. [North Circular Road]. No. of persons: Eleven.'

**Reference Code:** C2/1/2/1/3

**Title:** Awarding of the Portuguese rank of Cavaleiro of the Military Order of Christ to Kevin J Kenny.

**Creation Dates:** 26 June 1948

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 3 items

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** File includes a certificate (in Portuguese) conferring on Kevin John Kenny, honorary Vice Consul of Portugal, the rank of Cavaleiro of the Military Order of Christ. His name is inscribed incorrectly as 'Kelvin' on the certificate. File also includes an English translation of the certificate by the Portuguese Consulate in Dublin, and a black and white photograph of Kenny receiving the cross, which is the insignia of the order, from Dr Henrique Bacelar de Caldeira Queiroz, the Portuguese Consul. Standing between them is the apostolic nuncio, Most Rev Pascal Robinson.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/2/2

**Title:** Battle of Gallipoli

**Creation Dates:** [25 April 1915]-29 July 2010

**Level of Description:** Series

**Extent and Medium:** 9 items

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny and Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Sub-series consists of printed personal note from Major-General Aylmer Hunter-Weston, British Army transcribed signals from the first day of Battle of Gallipoli, and correspondence between the Imperial War Museum and Colum Kenny regarding the transcribed signals and recruitment advertisements (see sub-series C2/1/1/2). Some of the signals are signed 'J Murphy' who Colum Kenny suggested may have been Jack (John) Murphy, brother of Annette Kenny (née Murphy), Kevin J Kenny's wife. This could possibly explain how the signals came to form part of the collection.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/2/2/1

**Title:** Note from Major-General Aylmer Hunter-Weston CB DSO to the 29th Division of the British Army on the eve of the landings at Gallipoli, 25 April 1915.

**Creation Dates:** [25 April 1915]

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Undated printed page which reads:

'Personal note from Major-General Aylmer Hunter-Weston, C.B., D.S.O., to each man of the 29th Division on the occasion of their first going into action together. The Major-General Commanding congratulates the division on being selected for an enterprise the success of which will have a decisive effect on the War. The eyes of the world are upon us and your deeds will live in history. To us now is given an opportunity of avenging our friends and relatives who have fallen in France and Flanders. Our comrades there willingly gave their lives in thousands and tens of thousands for our King and Country, and by their glorious courage and dogged tenacity they defeated the invaders and broke the German offensive. We must also be prepared to suffer hardships, privations, thirst, and heavy losses, by bullets, by shells, by mines, by drowning. But if each man feels, as is true, that on him individually, however small or however great his task, rests the success or failure of the expedition, and therefore the honour of the empire and the welfare of his own folk at home, we are certain to win through to a glorious victory. In Nelson's time it was England, now it is the whole British Empire, which expects each man of us will do his duty. A. H-W.' Major-General Aylmer Hunter-Weston was commander of the British 29th Division on the Gallipoli peninsula in April 1915.

'Keep this and never loose [sic] it' is written in pencil underneath Hunter-Weston's message. Another lightly written and mostly illegible note in pencil is also visible on the reverse of the page.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/2/2/2

**Title:** British Army transcribed signals from the landings at Gallipoli, 25-26 April 1915.

**Creation Dates:** 25 April 1915-26 April 1915

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 4 items

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Includes four "C" Form[s], Messages and Signals' [transcribed signals] relating to units of the 86th Brigade who would have been on active service as part of the 29th Division on the Gallipoli peninsula in April 1915 [see file C2/1/2/2/3 for further context]. The forms include handwritten signals in pencil, with messages such as: 'Send reinforcements. Urgently required. I have no men. '; 'I am unable to hold out. Send reinforcements. Urgent.' and 'No answer to last message. The wire must be cut. I have sent patrol. Firing is very near.'

Some of the signals are signed 'J Murphy' who Colum Kenny suggested may have been Kevin J Kenny's brother-in-law, Jack (John) Murphy.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/2/2/3

**Title:** Correspondence between the Imperial War Museum and Colum Kenny regarding British Army transcribed signals from Gallipoli.

**Creation Dates:** 31 May 2010-29 July 2010

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 4 items

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Includes letter and printout of e-mail from Anthony Richards, archivist at the Imperial War Museum, London, who describes items in file C2/1/2/2/2 as 'transcribed signals'. Richards suggests that the signals relate to units of the 86th Brigade who would have been on active service as part of the 29th Division at Gallipoli during April 1915.



Also includes copy letter from Kenny to Diane Lees, Director-General of the Imperial War Museum, London, regarding these transcribed signals and his grandfather Kevin J Kenny's recruitment advertising work around the time of the 1916 Easter Rising (see sub-series C2/1/1/2).

**Reference Code:** C2/1/3

**Title:** Published material and memorabilia

**Creation Dates:** January 1901-September 1954

**Level of Description:** Series

**Extent and Medium:** 31 items

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny and Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Newspapers, magazines, postcards, flyers and other published documents mainly relating to Irish nationalism. It is possible that Kevin J Kenny worked as a commercial manager or advertising agent for some of the publications, and/or that his company, Kenny's Press, published some of them. It is also very likely that Kevin simply collected the material in this series due to its historical significance.

Colum Kenny purchased and added some items to this series, such as item C2/1/3/13.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/3/1  
**Title:** *Celtia*, volume 1, number 1.  
**Creation Dates:** 1 January 1901  
**Level of Description:** Item  
**Extent and Medium:** 21 pages  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** Describes itself as a 'pan-Celtic monthly magazine'.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/3/2  
**Title:** Design for the front-page of a periodical called 'Listen!'  
**Creation Dates:** [?1902-1916]  
**Level of Description:** Item  
**Extent and Medium:** 2 pages  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** Hand-drawn design on a scrap of torn paper. Subtitle included in the design describes the periodical as 'Ireland's best story paper'. Part of what appears to be a printed letter is visible on the reverse of the page and is signed off with the printed name 'T.M. Kettle' [?Thomas Michael Kettle].

**Reference Code:** C2/1/3/3  
**Title:** *Sinn Féin: The Oldcastle Monthly Review*, Volume 13.  
**Creation Dates:** May 1903  
**Level of Description:** Item  
**Extent and Medium:** 8 pages  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** Price: one penny.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/3/4  
**Title:** *The Peasant and Irish Ireland*, Volume 2, Number 57.  
**Creation Dates:** 7 March 1908  
**Level of Description:** Item  
**Extent and Medium:** 8 pages  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** A section of pages seven and eight has been cut out of the newspaper. Price: one penny.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/3/5  
**Title:** Pro-Home Rule postcard featuring images of John Redmond and other notable Irish and British political figures.  
**Creation Dates:** [?1915]  
**Level of Description:** File  
**Extent and Medium:** 2 items  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** Two copies of postcard featuring a photograph of John Redmond surrounded by a garland and two shamrocks on a green background. Above the image is printed 'Éire Saor' [Free Ireland] and below the images is written 'home rule', and also two verses in Irish entitled 'Curaí'. A tab enables one to raise the image of Redmond off the card allowing a folded strip of six photographs to drop down. The strip includes photographs of following: William E Gladstone, Charles Stewart Parnell, HH Asquith, the 'Old Irish Parliament' [Parliament Building, College Green], Joseph Devlin and John Dillon. Beneath the portraits are three verses of 'A Nation Once Again'. Postcard printed by Valentine & Sons Limited, Dundee.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/3/6  
**Title:** Petition to King George V from the Protestant British-Israel League regarding 'the British mission to the Pope'.

**Creation Dates:** [?January 1915-August 1916]

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 3 pages

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Stencil copy petition to King George V from the Protestant British-Israel League regarding Sir Henry Howard's role as the first formal British envoy to the Vatican in over 300 years. Petition warns of a conspiracy to overthrow the Protestant succession and restore a 'Roman Catholic Dynasty' in England. Also warns that the placing the Home Rule Bill on the Statute Book will make Ireland 'a base for Jesuit wirepullers and plotters in the cause of subverting Your Majesty's Throne and Authority'. Lists examples of 'manifestations of Divine displeasure' when past concessions to Rome have been made by the British government, such as the sinking of the RMS Empress of Ireland (29 May 1914) following the passing of the Home Rule Bill, and that the 'Royal assent to the Bill was followed by the sinking of the three Cruisers "Hogue, Cressy and Aboukir."' The petitioners are listed as Agusta Cook, President; Heywood Smith MA, MD, Vice President, and CW Burge, Honorary Treasurer.

The petition is undated, but references in the text to the '[Air] Raid' on [Great] Yarmouth and King's Lynn, [Norfolk, UK] (19 January 1915), and Sir Henry Howard's mission to the Vatican, dates it to between 19 January 1915 and August 1916 (when Howard retired).

**Reference Code:** C2/1/3/7

**Title:** *The Spark*, volume 1, number 4.

**Creation Dates:** 28 February 1915

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 4 pages

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Issue I (no. 4), dated 28 February 1915. The *Spark* was edited by 'Ed. Dalton', a pseudonym used by James W Upton.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/3/8

**Title:** *Nationality*, volume 1, numbers 32, 34 and 36.

**Creation Dates:** 22 January 1916-19 February 1916

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 3 items

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** File includes issues published on 22 January 1916 (volume 1, Number 32), 5 February 1916 (volume 1, Number 34) and 19 February 1916 (volume 1, Number 36). Address: 12 D'Olier Street, Dublin. Edited by Arthur Griffith. Proprietor: Sean MacDermott. Price: one penny.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/3/9

**Title:** Flyer for an address by Eóin Mac Néill [Eóin MacNeill] and concert at the Antient Concert Rooms.

**Creation Dates:** [April] 1916

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 2 items

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Two copies of a flyer advertising a concert in the Antient Concert Rooms, [52 Great Brunswick Street (now Pearse Street), Dublin] at which the flyer states, Eóin Mac Néill, President of the Irish Volunteers, will deliver 'an important address' on 'the present crisis'. The concert date is given as 'Sunday Night, April 9th' meaning that the flyer is most likely from 1916.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/3/10

**Title:** Statement made by Thomas MacDonagh during his court martial following the Easter Rising, 1916.

**Creation Dates:** [2 May 1916]  
**Level of Description:** Item  
**Extent and Medium:** 2 pages  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** Typed copy of statement. The statement was circulated in a pamphlet after the Rising and was denounced by the authorities as a fake. It would appear from MacDonagh's court martial file that he did not give such a statement.

This item is fragile. It should only be handled if completely necessary. To avoid unnecessary handling, it has been digitised and a high-resolution image is available in the reading room for consultation. Please consult with the archivist for access.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/3/11  
**Title:** *The Irish Nation*, volume 1, numbers 17 and 48.  
**Creation Dates:** 14 October 1916-19 May 1917  
**Level of Description:** File  
**Extent and Medium:** 2 items  
**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** File includes issues published on 14 October 1916 (volume 1, number 17) and 19 May 1917 (volume 1, number 48). Issue number 17 features an article about the lack of rebuilding taking place in Dublin city centre following the 1916 Easter Rising, and includes a sardonic reference to the rebuilding of the Kenny's Advertising Agency building, suggesting this is related to 'big cheques' from the 'profitable business' of 'Recruitment in Ireland'. See sub-series 'Recruitment Controversy for further context about this topic. Issue number 48 includes the banner: 'Organ of the Repeal League and Independence Association'. Price: one penny.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/3/12

**Title:** Leaflet requesting prayers in memory of the rebels who were killed during and following the Easter Rising, 1916.

**Creation Dates:** [November] 1916

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Leaflet reads as follows: 'Lá na Marbh, 1916, All Souls' Day, 1916. Your prayers are earnestly requested for the repose of the souls of the following Irishmen who were executed by Military Law this year: [includes list of 16 names] Also for the repose of the souls of the following men who were killed whilst fighting for Ireland, during Easter Week, 1916: [includes list of 52 names] Go nDeinidh dia trocaire ar a nAnamaibh'.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/3/13

**Title:** 'Documents presented to the U.S. Government on behalf of the Irish Republic'.

**Creation Dates:** [July 1917]

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Fragile single-sided printed page, possibly from a newspaper or pamphlet. Document details the declaration presented to the USA Government on behalf of the Irish Republic by Dr Patrick McCartan in July 1917. Includes the complete declaration signed by Irish nationalist leaders such as 'Edward de Valera' [sic], Eóin MacNéill and 'Des Fitzgerald', and a 'note' by McCartan addressed to the President and Congress of the United States. Also includes an '[e]xtract from the trial of A. Stack' [?Austin Stack].

McCartan would go on to serve as the Irish Provisional Government envoy to the USA, 1918-1920. Charles Tansill writes in *America and the Fight for Irish Freedom 1866-1922: An Old Story Based Upon New Data* (New York: Devin-Adair Company, 1957) that the signatories of the declaration had been released from prison (following

their part in the Easter Rising) on 18 June 1917 as a gesture of good will to American public opinion. Tansill notes that the statement was written by MacNéill upon their release and taken by Patrick McCartan to the USA, where it was presented at the White House on 23 July 1917.

This item is fragile. It should only be handled if completely necessary. To avoid unnecessary handling, it has been digitised and a high-resolution image is available in the reading room for consultation. Please consult with the archivist for access.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/3/14

**Title:** *Mid-Week Pictorial* with image of Arthur Griffith on front cover.

**Creation Dates:** 19 January 1922

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 4 items

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** *Mid-Week Pictorial* was an illustrated weekly newspaper supplement published by *The New York Times*. Includes a full-page photograph of Arthur Griffith on the front cover, describing him as the 'Head of the Irish Free State'. Inside is a one-page feature about Ireland including photographs of five government ministers: George Gavan Duffy, Richard Mulcahy, Michael Collins, Eamon J Duggan, WT Cosgrave.

Colum Kenny purchased this journal from a bookshop in the USA in March 2010, through [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com). File includes the relevant section of Colum Kenny's original finding aid for the collection that notes that *Mid-Week Pictorial* was purchased from [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com), the shipping manifest for the item, and the address of the bookshop that the newspaper was purchased from.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/3/15

**Title:** Issues of the *Freeman's Journal* and the *Evening Standard* published following the destruction of their respective printing presses.



**Creation Dates:** 30 March 1922-1 April 1922

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 3 items

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** File includes: two reduced single-sheet-formatted versions of the *Freeman's Journal* from 30 and 31 March 1922, and a four-page single-sided-sheet version of the *Evening Telegraph* (Dublin) from 1 April 1922. The Anti-Treaty IRA destroyed the printing presses of both newspapers in March 1922.

These items (particularly the issues of the *Freeman's Journal*) are extremely fragile. They should only be handled if completely necessary. To avoid unnecessary handling, these items have been digitised and high-resolution images are available in the reading room for consultation. Please consult with the archivist for access.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/3/16

**Title:** Note discussing the proposed cessation of Civil War hostilities.

**Creation Dates:** [1922]

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Stencil copy of typed single page. Lists conditions upon which a cessation of hostilities may occur. One of the conditions includes the '[d]eclaration of [Éamon] De Valera and [WT] Cosgrove [sic] that unless requested by two-thirds of new Parliament neither will accept office of head of State.'

This item is fragile. It should only be handled if completely necessary. To avoid unnecessary handling, it has been digitised and a high-resolution image is available in the reading room for consultation. Please consult with the archivist for access.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/3/17

**Title:** *To-morrow*, volume 1, numbers 1 and 2.

**Creation Dates:** August 1924-September 1924

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 2 journals

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Two issues of the literary magazine edited by Henry Francis Montgomery Stuart and Cecil Salkeld featuring contributions from Irish poets, writers and artists including WB Yeats, Lennox Robinson and Liam O’Flaherty. Volume 1, number 1 from August 1924 includes: ‘The Madonna of Slieve Dun’ by Lennox Robinson; ‘A Red Petticoat’ by Liam O’Flaherty; ‘Leda and the Swan’ by WB Yeats; ‘The Japanese Pine’ and ‘Just Now’ by Charlotte Arthur; ‘Be a Trembling Petal’ by Henry Francis Montgomery Stuart; “As I was Among the Captives” by Joseph Campbell; ‘The Principles of Painting’ (with illustration) by Cecil Salkeld; an editorial by Henry Francis Montgomery Stuart and Cecil Salkeld; ‘Sonnet’ by OF Fleck; ‘Why we Live’ by “Sachka”; ‘A Primitive’ by LK Emery; Colour by Margaret Barrington, and ‘Alba’ by RND Wilson.

Volume 1, number 2 from September 1924 includes: ‘Honore Dumier’ by Arthur Symons; ‘The Garden’ by ‘Sachka’; ‘Marriage Song’ and an untitled poem by Blanaid Salkeld; ‘Wet Loveliness’ and ‘The Horse-Breaker’ by FR Higgins; ‘Two Poems’ [‘An Etching’ and ‘Gifts’] by Charlotte Arthur; ‘An P’ [in the German language] by OJ Fleck; ‘The Sea’ by RND Wilson; ‘In the Hour before Dawn’ by Henry Francis Montgomery Stuart; ‘The Popular Road’ by Iseult Stuart; ‘The Principles of Painting’ [continued from volume 1, number 1] (and illustration) by Cecil Salkeld, and ‘The Tendencies of the Younger Irish Poetry’ by LK Emery.

The address of the journal publisher is given as 13 Fleet Street, Dublin in volume 1, number 1 and is given as Roebuck House, Clonskeagh, Dublin in volume 1, number 2. Price of the journal is six pence.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/3/18

**Title:** Dublin Civic Week, 17-25 September 1927: general programme.

**Creation Dates:** [?17] September 1927

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 14 pages

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** The last page of the programme is torn. It is possible that Kevin J Kenny was involved in the organisation of Dublin Civic Week in 1927.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/3/19

**Title:** 'Imperial Preference – Certificate of Origin E' form.

**Creation Dates:** [?1933]

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Kevin J Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Form relates to the importation of a '[s]tandard 10 h.p. de luxe saloon [?motor car] by John G McEntagart, Director and Secretary, McEntagart Brothers Limited'. Some of the entries in the form are filled in with typed and handwritten text.

It is likely that this car was purchased by Kevin J Kenny from McEntagart Brothers Limited.

**Reference Code:** C2/1/3/20

**Title:** Memorial card for Kevin J Kenny.

**Creation Dates:** [?September-October] 1954

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 2 pages

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Memorial card commemorating the death of Kevin J Kenny. Kevin died on 14 September 1954 in the Bon Secours nursing home, Glasnevin, Dublin.

**Reference Code:** C2/2

**Title:** Michael B Kenny

**Creation Dates:** 1956-1993

**Level of Description:** Sub-fonds

**Extent and Medium:** 4 items

**Name of Creator:** Michael B Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Sub-fonds consists of a few items relating to Michael B Kenny's career in advertising. These include a brief history

of the Kenny's Advertising Agency written by Michael, and two photographs: one of the Council of the Advertising/Press Club in 1956 or 1957, and the other of the Kenny's Advertising Agency premises at Lower Baggot Street, Dublin. Sub-fonds also includes a short biography of Michael [?written by his son Colum Kenny].

**Reference Code:** C2/2/1

**Title:** 'Council of the Advertising/Press Club 1956-57': photograph.

**Creation Dates:** [?1956-1957]

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 photograph

**Name of Creator:** Michael B Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Michael B Kenny is visible seated second from left wearing the chairman's chain.

**Reference Code:** C2/2/2

**Title:** History of Kenny's Advertising Agency, written by Michael B Kenny.

**Creation Dates:** [c. 1960]-[?1992]

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Michael B Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Photocopy of a single-page handwritten note. Photocopy includes an inscription by Colum Kenny with regard to the handwritten note that reads: 'This is in the handwriting of my late father, Michael B. Kenny.'

**Reference Code:** C2/2/3

**Title:** Photograph of 'Kenny's Advertising Limited' building at 84-86 Baggot Street, Dublin.

**Creation Dates:** [?1963-1974]

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 photograph

**Name of Creator:** Michael B Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Exterior shot of the building with logo and sign that reads 'KENNYS ADVERTISING LIMITED'. The company was based at this location between 1963 and 1974.

**Reference Code:** C2/2/4

**Title:** Biography of Michael B Kenny

**Creation Dates:** [?October 1992-August 1993]

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Biography mentions that Michael 'passed away last September'. It was possibly written by Michael's son Colum Kenny.

**Reference Code:** C2/3

**Title:** Colum Kenny

**Creation Dates:** [1974]-2010

**Level of Description:** Sub-fonds

**Extent and Medium:** 4 series, 3 sub-series

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** The final sub-fonds in the collection mainly relates to Colum Kenny's work on three documentaries for RTÉ, and some of his personal correspondence with various

individuals relating to topics such as the media, law and Irish history.

One of the series relates to Colum's research for a documentary about the 'Tailor and Ansty'. The Tailor and Ansty (husband and wife Timothy ['the Tailor'] and Anastasia ['Ansty'] Buckley) were the subjects of a book by Eric Cross about their storytelling and home in Gougane Barra, County Cork, which became a hub for notable figures of the Cork arts scene in the 1930s and 1940s. The series includes letters from Eric Cross and friends of the Tailor and Ansty including Seán Ó Faoláin and Nancy McCarthy-Allitt.

Another series (C2/3/3) relates to connections between Colum Kenny's house, 1 Herbert Terrace, Bray, County Wicklow, and two of its former residents: Cyril Cusack and Grace Watt (née Muggeridge). This series mainly consists of correspondence between Kenny, Cusack and Watt during the early 1990s in which they reminisce about living in the house, and discuss Cusack and Watt's personal lives.

The final series (C2/3/4) consists of the original finding aid that was included with the collection when it was donated to DCU Library by Colum Kenny on 23 November 2011. It details the original arrangement and description of the collection and was created by Kenny.

Two of the sub-series in this sub-fonds relating to Colum's work on RTÉ television series are currently closed for access in part or in whole.

<b>Reference Code:</b>	C2/3/1
<b>Title:</b>	Media career and general correspondence.
<b>Creation Dates:</b>	[1974]-1990
<b>Level of Description:</b>	Series
<b>Extent and Medium:</b>	18 items
<b>Name of Creator:</b>	Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Mainly concerns the production of various radio and television documentaries, but also includes correspondence between Colum and a range of figures and organisations on topics such as revisionism in Irish historiography, the inclusion of Ireland under the designation 'British Isles' during SKY News television broadcasts and Channel 4's attitude to Ireland and the reporting of Irish affairs.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/1/1

**Title:** Documents and correspondence relating to legal reform.

**Creation Dates:** [1974]-2007

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 9 items

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** File includes: report titled 'Free Legal Aid Scheme as proposed by Socialist Law Group' written by Colum Kenny for the Pringle Committee on Legal Aid following a 1974 visit to the USA and Canada to research legal aid there; petition to King's Inns proposing the change of its motto 'Nolumus Mutari' ('We do not wish to change' or 'We do not wish to be changed'); a rejection by the benchers Standing Committee of this proposal; and printouts and a newspaper cutting relating to a finding by the Competition Authority that the Irish legal profession was in need of reform.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/1/2

**Title:** Letter from Jeremiah Newman, Bishop of Limerick, to Colum Kenny.

**Creation Dates:** 17 May 1976

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 2 pages

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Newman replies to a letter from Kenny, which had included a copy of a book by Alan Watts [according to Colum Kenny, the book was most likely *Cloud-Hidden, Whereabouts*



*Unknown: A Mountain Journal* (1974). Kenny sent Newman the letter and book in response to some reported comments made by Newman. The letter from Newman discusses Catholic attitudes to sex and warns Kenny about Alan Watts' writings on religion: 'I would like to warn you against getting too involved in that kind of literature'. According to Colum Kenny, Bishop Newman spoke about contraception and the relationship between church and state in an RTÉ interview broadcast on 30 March 1976.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/1/3

**Title:** Photograph of Colum Kenny in the radio studio at the National Institute for Higher Education, Dublin.

**Creation Dates:** [1980-1989]

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 photograph

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Colum joined the School of Communications at the National Institute for Higher Education Dublin [now Dublin City University (DCU)] in 1982.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/1/4

**Title:** Letter from Vincent B Gallagher, Supreme Knight, Knights of Columbanus, to the Secretary, RTÉ Authority.

**Creation Dates:** 4 December 1982

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Photocopy letter describes a radio report by Colum Kenny on the RTÉ Radio 1 radio programme 'Day by Day' concerning the imprisonment of Nicky Kelly as 'biased and prejudiced and totally in favour of the defendant.' The report included a re-enactment of some of the evidence in the case.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/1/5

**Title:** Letters from Fr Brendan Bradshaw, Queens' College, Cambridge, UK to Colum Kenny.

**Creation Dates:** November 1987-5 November 1990

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 4 items

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** File includes two brief letters from Bradshaw. In the first letter dated 23 September 1988, he thanks Kenny for the 'offprint and review both of which I read with considerable interest and much to my benefit.' He notes that '[t]he revisionists here and elsewhere are simply exchanging one distortion with another. Your careful research goes towards correcting both.' In the second letter, with postmark dated 5 November 1990 [according to a pencil annotation by Colum Kenny], Bradshaw thanks Kenny for 'the encouraging letter regarding my article in I.H.S. [*Irish Historical Studies*].' Referencing revisionism again, he adds: 'I realise that I am swimming against the current and have no doubt that a price will have to be paid in some form or another. For the moment, however, the strategy seems to be to allow the anti-revisionist flak to spend itself before mounting a counter-assault.'

File also includes Kenny's journal article 'The Exclusion of Catholics from the legal profession in Ireland, 1537-1829' published in volume XXV, number 100 (November 1987) of *Irish Historical Studies*. This is possibly a copy of the 'offprint' that Bradshaw references in the first letter. Kenny references Bradshaw's book *The Dissolution of the Religious Orders in Ireland under Henry VIII* (Cambridge, 1974) in this article.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/1/6

**Title:** Letter from Liz Forgan, Director of Programmes, Channel 4 to Colum Kenny.

**Creation Dates:** 16 November 1988

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Discusses the UK service's attitude to Ireland, the reporting of Irish affairs, and commissioning of programmes by Irish producers.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/1/7

**Title:** Letter from John O'Loan, Head of News, SKY News to Colum Kenny.

**Creation Dates:** 21 August 1990

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** O'Loan replies to Kenny explaining why SKY News had included Ireland under the designation 'British Isles' on its standard weather map and states that the practice has now been discontinued as 'being correct is not always right.'

**Reference Code:** C2/3/2

**Title:** RTÉ television documentaries and current affairs programmes.

**Creation Dates:** 1977-1980

**Level of Description:** Series

**Extent and Medium:** 3 sub-series

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Series relates to three RTÉ television documentaries that Colum Kenny worked on as a researcher and producer. One of the sub-series relates to a documentary titled 'The Tailor and Ansty', broadcast in October 1978, and includes numerous letters from Seán Ó Faoláin, Eric Cross, and Nancy McCarthy-Allitt.

The other two sub-series relate to a documentary on the Irish Hospitals' Sweepstake and a *Frontline* television programme on the sale of old national schools in the Beara Peninsula respectively. The sub-series on the Irish Hospitals' Sweepstake is currently closed for access, while part of the sub-series on the *Frontline* programme is currently closed.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/2/1

**Title:** RTÉ television Irish Hospitals' Sweepstake documentary.

**Creation Dates:** 1977

**Level of Description:** Sub-series

**Extent and Medium:** 2 items

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** The following contextual note were written by Colum Kenny in 2011: 'In 1977, RTÉ researched and filmed in Ireland, Canada and the USA a documentary investigating the Irish Hospitals Sweepstakes, including the latter's connection with proposals for a national lottery in Ireland [...] [T]he programme was never aired [...] Some years later, RTE [*sic*] made a different and shorter programme about the Irish Hospitals Sweepstakes.'

Consists of internal RTÉ documents. This sub-series is currently closed and access will be reviewed in 2025.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/2/2  
**Title:** 'The Tailor and Ansty'  
**Creation Dates:** 16 July 1978-1 May 1980  
**Level of Description:** Sub-series

**Extent and Medium:** 15 items

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Mainly consists of correspondence between Kenny and a number of individuals involved in a documentary researched and presented by Colum Kenny for RTÉ television about 'The Tailor and Ansty' (husband and wife Timothy ['the Tailor'] and Anastasia ['Ansty'] Buckley). The Tailor and Ansty were the subjects of a book by Eric Cross about their storytelling and home in Gougane Barra, County Cork, which became a hub for notable figures of the Cork arts scene in the 1930s and 1940s such as writers Frank O'Connor and Seán Ó Faoláin, sculptor Seamus Murphy, students of the Irish language, and folklorists. The book was published in 1942 and banned soon after. The RTÉ documentary included interviews with Cross, Ó Faoláin, and the Tailor and Ansty's close friend Nancy McCarthy-Allitt, and recounted the aftermath of the banning; including an episode when the Tailor was forced by three priests to burn a copy of the Eric Cross book in his fireplace. The documentary also included dramatised accounts of debates which took place in Seanad Éireann in December 1942 following the banning of the book. The RTÉ documentary was broadcast on 31 October 1978.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/2/2/1

**Title:** Correspondence between Seán O'Faoláin and Colum Kenny.

**Creation Dates:** August 1978-25 February 1993

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 3 items

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** File includes one letter from Kenny to O'Faoláin, and two letters from O'Faoláin to Kenny concerning the documentary and other topics. Kenny's asks O'Faoláin in his letter dated 28 August 1978 if will agree to be interviewed for the documentary, to which O'Faoláin agrees by returning Kenny's original letter with annotations answering several of Kenny's questions and dating his reply 29 August 1978. The second letter from O'Faoláin

[?from September 1978] is titled 'CENSORSHIP' and appears to have been written following the recording of their interview, with O'Faoláin elaborating on some of the points he made about censorship in Ireland during the 1930s and 1940s, and expresses an admiration for Marina Warner's book *Alone of All Her Sex*.

File also includes an [Irish Times] newspaper cutting from [25 February] 1993 of a letter to the editor by Maurice Harmon in which he notes that he is 'writing the life' of O'Faoláin and 'would like to hear from anyone who may have information, or recollections that may be helpful.' It is possible that Kenny contacted Harmon about his own correspondence with O'Faoláin.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/2/2/2

**Title:** Letters from Nancy McCarthy-Allitt to Colum Kenny.

**Creation Dates:** 16 July 1978-1 May 1980

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 7 items

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** File consists of seven letters (dated 16 July 1978; 20 August 1978; 16 September [1978]; 1 October 1978; 7 November 1978; 18 December 1978; and 1 May 1980). McCarthy-Allitt was interviewed by Kenny for the documentary in 1978 and the letters concern her memories of her close friends Timothy ('the Tailor') and Anastasia ('Ansty') Buckley, arrangements for the interview, her praise for the finished documentary and Kenny's professionalism, and reaction to the documentary from customers in her chemist shop in Douglas, Cork. Other notable friends of McCarthy-Allitt mentioned in the letters include Seán O'Faoláin, Frank O'Connor and Seamus Murphy. File also includes a poem by O'Connor, 'In Memory of Timothy Buckley "The Tailor"', in McCarthy-Allitt's handwriting.

Some of the corresponding letters from Colum Kenny to McCarthy-Allitt are available in the Nancy McCarthy

Collection, Archives Service, UCC Library, University College Cork.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/2/2/3

**Title:** Letters from Eric Cross to Colum Kenny.

**Creation Dates:** 28 July 1978-November 1978

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 4 items

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** File consists of three letters (dated 28 July 1978; [September-October] 1978; and [November] 1978) mainly concerning Cross' book *The Tailor and Ansty*; Kenny's documentary and his attempt to find someone to interview who was critical of Cross' book; and an RTÉ dramatisation of the book which was broadcast on the same night as the documentary on 31 October 1978. File also includes a note by Cross about the 'unbanning' of the book [in the 1950s] and its reissue in 1964.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/2/2/4

**Title:** Newspaper cuttings relating to the Tailor and Ansty RTÉ documentary.

**Creation Dates:** 27 October 1978-4 November 1978

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 3 items

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Cuttings are from the *RTÉ Guide*, the *Irish Times* and *Evening Press* newspapers.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/2/3



**Title:** *Frontline* television programme on the sale of old national schools in the Beara Peninsula by St Brendan's Trust.

**Creation Dates:** December 1979-May 1981

**Level of Description:** Sub-series

**Extent and Medium:** c. 86 items

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Sub-series relates to an RTÉ *Frontline* television programme broadcast on 1 February 1980 that was researched and presented by Colum Kenny. The programme dealt with allegations that St Brendan's Trust (the Kerry Diocesan Trust) had acquired 17 national school properties in the Beara Peninsula and sold them against the wishes of many in the local community. Prior to the *Frontline* programme being broadcast, the story was covered in *Berehaven News*, a newspaper published by Combat Poverty, a rural development group in the Beara Peninsula. A letter written by Kerry Diocesan Secretary and Social Policy Advisor (and Secretary of St Brendan's Trust), Father Dermot Clifford condemning the *Berehaven News* article was also circulated to households in the Beara Peninsula area in January 1980.

After the *Frontline* programme aired, the Bishop of Kerry, Kevin McNamara and Father Clifford wrote (separately) to RTÉ Director General, George Waters to complain that Colum Kenny was "prejudiced in his approach" and "unfair" in an interview with Father Clifford. The complaint by Bishop McNamara, and the subsequent apologies made by Waters and RTÉ Chairman Patrick Moriarty to the Bishop were covered in several newspapers.

Father Clifford made an official complaint about the programme to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission in November 1980. The Commission rejected Father Clifford's complaint in April 1981, and said the programme was not 'a biased production' and did not consider the interview unduly 'harsh'.

This sub-series includes documents relating to the research for the programme and the production itself. Also includes letters and numerous newspaper cuttings relating

to complaints made by Bishop McNamara and Father Clifford, and the subsequent decision of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission.

Much of the sub-series consists of copies of private correspondence written by various individuals relating to the complaint made by Father Clifford to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission in November 1980. This particular material is currently closed and access will be reviewed in 2025.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/2/3/1

**Title:** *Frontline* television programme: preparation and aftermath

**Creation Dates:** December 1979-May 1981

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 25 items

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** File consists of documents relating to the research for the programme and the production itself.

Includes: transcript of the *Frontline* television programme originally broadcast on 1 February 1980; a copy of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission's decision regarding the complaint made by Father Clifford; copy of letter sent by Colum Kenny to the *Cork Examiner* in May 1981 requesting that the newspaper publish the Commission's decision; newspaper cuttings; some research notes written by Colum Kenny [?for the programme]; copy of letter dated 11 January 1980 from Father Clifford to parishioners in the Beara Peninsula condemning the article published in the *Berehaven News* about the affair; press release from *Berehaven News* in response to Father Clifford's letter; *Berehaven News*, Vol. 1, No. 3, (1979), featuring the original article, and reference material relating to the Broadcasting Authority (Amendment) Act, 1976.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/2/3/2

**Title:** *Frontline* television programme: Broadcasting Complaints Commission documents.

**Creation Dates:** 23 January 1980-27 March 1981

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 51 items

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** File mainly consists of copies of private correspondence written by various individuals relating to the complaint made by Father Clifford to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission in November 1980. This material is currently closed and access will be reviewed in 2049.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/2/3/3

**Title:** *Frontline* television programme: newspaper cuttings.

**Creation Dates:** February 1980-May 1981

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 10 items

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Includes original and copies of newspaper cuttings relating to the complaints made by Bishop McNamara and Father Clifford about the programme, and the subsequent decision of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/3

**Title:** Cyril Cusack, Grace Watt and 1 Herbert Terrace, Bray

**Creation Dates:** 21 September 1988-27 June 2010

**Level of Description:** Series

**Extent and Medium:** 60 items

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Series relates to the history of Colum Kenny's house, 1 Herbert Terrace, Bray, County Wicklow, and two of its former residents: Cyril Cusack and Grace Watt (née Muggeridge). The series mainly consists of correspondence between Kenny, Cusack and Watt during the early 1990s in which they reminisce about living in the house, and discussion of Cusack and Watt's personal lives.

Grace and the Muggeridge family, lived in 1 Herbert Terrace from 1918 to 1926. Grace's father worked [?as a welder] for Barimar Limited, who opened an Irish branch with head offices at 185, Great Brunswick Street, Dublin in 1919. According to Grace, Barimar Limited acquired 1 Herbert Terrace for the family after they relocated from London [see letter from Grace to Colum Kenny dated 5 November 1990; item C2/3/3/1 (5)]. While Grace's childhood memories of living in Ireland as detailed in the letters are very happy, it seems that the family fortunes were not similarly positive. The family had moved to Ireland during tumultuous times, with the War of Independence and Civil War taking place during the period. Her father's workshop [?in Dublin] was burnt down at some point and Grace notes in one letter that this 'was probably the beginning of our financial troubles'. Grace says her mother sublet rooms in 1 Herbert Terrace when 'times became difficult' [see letter to Colum Kenny dated 7 March 1993; item C2/3/3/1 (12)]. It was at this point that her path crossed with Cyril Cusack.

Cyril, who would later become a famous actor, and his mother, Alice Violet Cusack (née Cole), lived with the Muggeridge family for two to three years according to Grace [see letter to Colum Kenny dated 12 August 1992; item C2/3/3/1 (10)]. Cyril became friends with the

Muggeridge children, particularly George, who is mentioned in several of Cyril and Grace's letters, and whose photograph at 1 Herbert Terrace is included in the series (see file C2/3/3/6).

Grace and her husband Jack (John) R Watt called to 1 Herbert Terrace during a visit to Ireland in 1988, and Colum Kenny and his family were living in the house at that point. Following this visit, Grace and Colum wrote letters and Christmas cards to one another for the next few years. Grace informed Colum at some point that Cyril Cusack had lived with her family for a time in the house. Colum mentioned this to Cyril when they met at a function in Dublin in 1989 and Cyril subsequently began a correspondence with Grace.

Cyril's letters to Grace include his memories of growing up in Bray, the various characters and events of their childhoods, and his friendship with George Muggeridge. He also shares details about his present life, the various plays, television documentaries and films he is acting in, and the travel that this involves. He also discusses the realities of growing old and his feeling that he might soon have to retire from acting. He mentions in a number of letters his desire to meet up with Grace again, but this never came to pass.

Grace's letters to Colum mainly concern her memories of living in 1 Herbert Terrace, her new correspondence with Cyril and the latest news from her and her husband's life. After Cyril died in October 1993, Grace decided to donate her letters from Cyril to Colum. She notes in a letter dated 27 October 1993 [item C2/3/3/1 (15)]: 'I feel most strongly that you are the only person who understands my affection for Cyril.'

This series includes: Grace's letters and photographs to Colum Kenny and his wife Catherine; Cyril's letters to Grace; Cyril's letters to Colum; a letter from Mary Rose Cunningham (Cyril's wife) to Grace; a letter from Jack (John) R Watt (Grace's husband) to Colum; copy correspondence between George Muggeridge and Sir Garfield Barwick about George's childhood in Bray;

newspaper article and research on 1 Herbert Terrace written by Colum, and newspaper cuttings relating to Cyril's death.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/3/1

**Title:** Letters from Grace Watt to Colum and Catherine Kenny.

**Creation Dates:** 21 September 1988-28 August 1994

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 21 letters

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** The majority of the letters are addressed to both Colum and Catherine Kenny, while some are only addressed to Colum. All letters are typed and signed, some include handwritten annotations. File also includes copy letters from George Muggeridge (Grace's brother) and Sir Garfield Barwick (friend of George Muggeridge). Watt often mentions that she has included photographs with the letters. Some of these photographs are included in files C2/3/3/6-8, but several are not included in the collection.

21 September 1988 – C2/3/3/1 (1)

Encloses photographs of the Muggeridge family at 1 Herbert Terrace, Herbert Road, Bray, County Wicklow in the 1920s. Also shares photos of her current home in Harrow, London, and of a recent trip to visit her brother George in Australia [photographs not included with letter]. Thanks Colum and Catherine Kenny for their welcome when Grace and her husband Jack (John) visited in the summer of 1988. Related photograph of George Muggeridge is included in this series [see item C2/3/3/6].

28 September 1988 – C2/3/3/1 (2)

Encloses photographs of their visit to 1 Herbert Terrace in 1988 [photographs not included with letter].

9 January 1990 – C2/3/3/1 (3)

Sends Christmas greetings and says: 'Delighted to hear of your recent encounter with Cyril Cusack (known to me as

Cyril O'Rourke)' [*sic*]. Also mentions: 'My beloved brother George passed away on 16th Dec[ember 1989].'

19 September 1990 – C2/3/3/1 (4)

Includes a copy of letter she received from Cyril dated 17 September 1990. Writes to Colum Kenny: 'I had one of the nicest surprises of my life today and it was all due to you!'

5 November 1990 – C2/3/3/1 (5)

Gives details of Bray in the 1920s, family history of 1 Herbert Terrace, and moving back to England in 1926. Says that she is waiting to hear back from Cyril. Asks Colum and Catherine Kenny to confirm her recollections of Michael Collins' funeral.

6 February 1991 – C2/3/3/1 (6)

Thanks Colum and Catherine Kenny for Christmas cards and views of Bray. Mentions her admiration for Cyril and that she is a year younger than him. Encloses her last photograph of 1 Herbert Terrace.

11 December 1991 – C2/3/3/1 (7)

Mentions that she and Cyril have been writing to one another, but that they are struggling to find time to meet. Notes that she is going to be 80 years old in March.

11 January 1992 – C2/3/3/1 (8)

Thanks the Kennys for Christmas card and for informing the Watts about works to 1 Herbert Terrace. Reminisces about travelling abroad for past Christmases.

22 January 1992 – C2/3/3/1 (9)

Mentions that she has been reading Cyril Cusack's book of poetry *Between the Acts and Other Poems*.

12 August 1992 – C2/3/3/1 (10)

File consists of a letter from Grace to Colum Kenny, and photocopies of two letters between Sir Garfield Barwick and George Muggeridge. Grace's letter discusses her brother George in Australia and how she had previously sent him audio tapes recorded during her and Jack's visit to Ireland in 1988. According to the letter, George and his wife ['Val'] wrote to Val's sister and husband [Sir Garfield

Barwick], and Grace encloses copies of their correspondence and notes that she has also sent copies to Cyril. Grace shares reminiscences about 1 Herbert Terrace and of Cyril and George being in the sea scouts as children.

In the letter from Sir Garfield Barwick, he tells George Muggeridge that he enjoyed the audio tape of Grace and John Watt's visit to Ireland very much, and tells George that he never told him why he decided to come to Australia. George writes back and shares details of his personal and family history. Discusses living in Bray briefly and the hardship his family experienced in Ireland: 'They [the Irish people] treated him [George's father] very badly, burnt down his shop and robbed him of equipment'. See also letter dated 20 September 1992 from Cyril Cusack to Grace Watt regarding these letters.

8 October 1992 – C2/3/3/1 (11)

Grace apologises for delay forwarding on Cyril's remarks about Colum Kenny's proposal to write an article on Cyril and Number 1 Herbert Terrace. Passes on Cyril's remarks from a letter to her dated 20 September 1992: 'That's alright, go ahead with whatever you may like to say, whether good or bad but not indifferent.' Notes that Cyril has said that he is going to retire soon and that he plans to write an autobiography.

7 March 1993 – C2/3/3/1 (12)

Thanks Kenny for sending on a draft of his writings on 'The History of Herbert Terrace, Bray' ('one of the loveliest surprises I have ever had'). Mentions that Cyril's wife [Mary Rose Cunningham] telephoned about trying to meet in London in March.

13 March 1993 – C2/3/3/1 (13)

Sends condolences on the deaths of both Colum and Catherine's fathers. Discuss the recession and how it is a challenging time to be raise a family. Grace says she has sent copies of Colum's *History of Number 1 Herbert Terrace* to her bother George's widow, Val, and to Val's sister [Norma ('Lady Barwick')] and her husband Sir Garfield Barwick.



13 October 1993 – C2/3/3/1 (14)

Thanks Kenny for passing on newspaper cuttings regarding death of Cyril Cusack. Discusses Cyril's health and references to this in his letters, his sense of humour. Grace notes that she got the impression from his letters that he lived alone. Mentions her friendship with her grand-nephew, Jim Hall, and his interest in the family's connection to Ireland.

27 October 1993 – C2/3/3/1 (15)

Discusses Colum Kenny's article in *Bray People* [published 15 October 1993] about Cyril, Grace and Number 1 Herbert Terrace [this article is included in this series, see file C2/3/3/9]. Discusses her willingness to give Colum the original letters from Cyril: 'I feel most strongly that you are the only person who understands my affection for Cyril.' Says she will add any necessary comments to letters. Discusses Cyril's life, saying it 'seemed to be a little but odd'. Reminisces about activities they got up to in Bray as children and her friendship with 'Mrs Sutton', a Bray resident.

[?18 November 1993] – C2/3/3/1 (16)

Undated letter, but sent on 18 November 1993 according to a handwritten annotation in pen on the first page of the letter [?by Colum Kenny]. Discusses that her husband Jack (John) had a transient stroke; how she hurt her foot while helping him, and their trip to the hospital. Also notes that she has forwarded on the letters and photographs she received from Cyril to Colum Kenny. Also included is the envelope in which the letters were originally contained.

7 January 1994 – C2/3/3/1 (17)

Two letters. Notes that the other letter of the same date gives him 'permission to donate Cusack correspondence to library' [?National Library of Ireland]. Also includes discussion of her getting a word processor; Colum's mother being unwell; Jack's transient stroke, and thanks Colum for forwarding on articles about Cyril. The second letter in the file details the transfer of ownership to Kenny of the letters Grace received from Cyril.

28 August 1994 – C2/3/3/1 (18)

Encloses photographs of Jack (John) and herself. Mentions that Jack recently turned 80 years of age; discusses his birthday celebrations; her grandnephew Jim Hall's travels in Malaysia and Indonesia, and their correspondence with one another.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/3/2

**Title:** Letters from Cyril Cusack to Colum Kenny.

**Creation Dates:** 17 September 1990-4 October 1990

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 2 letters

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Two typed and signed letters from Cusack to Kenny dated 17 September and 4 October 1990. Cusack writes from London where he is acting [in a production of Anton Chekhov's *Three Sisters* at the Royal Court Theatre] and thanks Kenny for passing on a letter from Grace Watt (née Muggeridge), and for Kenny's invitation to visit his house in Bray (1 Herbert Terrace). The Muggeridge family had lived in the house in the 1920s, and Cusack and his mother had lived with them for two to three years around 1922. Cusack discusses his recent attempt at writing an autobiography and remembers Grace and the Muggeridge family fondly.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/3/3

**Title:** Letters from Cyril Cusack to Grace Watt.

**Creation Dates:** 17 September 1990-7 January 1994

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 10 letters

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** 17 September 1990 - C2/3/3/3 (1)  
Typed and signed 4-page letter. Cusack writes from London where he is acting in a production of Anton Chekhov's *Three Sisters* at the Royal Court Theatre. He discusses how he had met Colum Kenny at an event at the

Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin, [in 1989] and that Kenny had mentioned 'that a woman called Grace Muggeridge' had called to his house in Bray and that he had a letter from her which he would like to show to him. He mentions that Kenny subsequently shared some letters from Watt with him. Cusack notes that it is 70 years since Watt and he have been in contact and goes on to recall various individuals and events from his time living with the Muggeridge family in 1922 (such as seeing the local barracks in Bray on fire during the Civil War). File also includes a photocopy of the letter.

29 March 1991 - C2/3/3/3 (2)

Typed and signed 1-page letter. Cusack writes from London where he is 'selling [his] soul to the Devil' [sic] doing a commercial. He mentions that he is travelling between Dublin, Paris and London over the next few weeks and regrets that he is neglecting to write his autobiography. He agrees with Watt that it would be good to meet and suggests doing so during his 'next trip over'. He also mentions that 'I think you must have had the news of Jeremy's win before I did. I'm glad he got it, he's a good lad as well as being a good actor.' [This possibly refers to Jeremy Irons winning the Academy Award for Best Actor on 25 March 1991 for the film *Reversal of Fortune*. Jeremy is married to Cusack's daughter Sinéad].

11 April 1991 - C2/3/3/3 (3)

Typed and signed 1-page letter. Cusack writes from Dublin that he has also read 'the Tim Pat Coogan, a big job of work, with a big bias against Dev [Eamon de Valera]. And I'm something of a Dev man, like it or not' [this may refer to Tim Pat Coogan's book, *Michael Collins*, which was first published in 1991]. He discusses one of his own poems relating to the Anglo-Irish Treaty from his book, *Between the Acts and Other Poems*, and ponders he and Grace could meet up. He suggests 'somewhere in the Chiswick [London] vicinity' but 'wish[es] it could be here' [Dublin].

23 April 1991 - C2/3/3/3 (4)

Typed and signed 1-page letter. Cusack writes from London where he is 'just back from Paris' and 'on-going to Dublin TO-DAY' [sic] and is thus unable to meet Watt. He

mentions that at the beginning of May he will be in Stonyhurst [Lancashire, England] 'on a documentary about the Jesuits (!!!)' [sic], and in the west of Ireland 'on a film for Hollywood.'

14 May 1991 - C2/3/3/3 (5)

Typed and signed 2-page letter. Cusack writes from Dublin detailing his 'tiresome' schedule of work and travel including having to travel to Dingle, County Kerry, in two days to rehearse 'with current film idol, Tom Cruise' [?for the film *Far and Away*]. He writes of recent experiences as an 'octogenarian in solitary near-confinement', including locking himself out of his house three times, and of another 'crisis' when he forgot to bring money to the supermarket, had to borrow 'a tenner' from the local newsvendor, and having his 'lamb chop' stolen on his return home by a stray cat because he left the back door of the house open.

5 June 1991 - C2/3/3/3 (6)

Holograph letter 2-page letter. Cusack writes from London that he is 'chasing back to Ireland in a day or two' having worked on a documentary 'for American TV' on Stonyhurst, '[t]he Jesuit College'. A further day of filming is planned for early July in London and he wonders if 'we might strike up then?' Mentions that he 'has to come up with the "few words"' having been asked to open the Synge Summer School [Cusack opened the inaugural John Millington Synge summer school in Rathdrum, County Wicklow].

8 August 1992 - C2/3/3/3 (7)

Holograph 2-page letter. Cusack writes [from Dublin] and opens the letter with: 'a Ghráinne, a ghráibh (did you know your name in Irish?)'. Mentions that he has 'to be brief this time – as time is running out' and that 'my recent effort on stage – *The Cherry Orchard* – sees me out ... curtains for Cusack!' [Cusack acted in a production of Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* at the Gate Theatre as part of the Dublin Theatre Festival in 1992].

20 September 1992 - C2/3/3/3 (8)

Typed and signed 1-page letter. Cusack writes from Dublin saying that he 'may not properly have answered [Watt's] letter of the 30th July'. Mentions 'volley' of photographs

Watt has received from him and that his 'actor's ego is unsurmountable; can't help it.' Also mentions a previous query from Watt which he failed to answer about 'Colm Kenny's request regarding my stay with the Muggeridge's' [sic]. He tells Watt to 'go ahead with whatever you may like to say' [Colum Kenny was writing an article at the time about Cusack and Number 1 Herbert Terrace. See Watt's letter to Colum and Catherine Kenny dated 8 October 1992; item C2/3/3/1 (11)]. He also notes that he never referred to a letter from George [Muggeridge, Grace's brother, who lived in Australia] to Sir Garfield Barwick, [seventh Chief Justice of Australia, and George's wife's brother-in-law], and Cusack notes that 'George didn't take too readily to Ireland or the Irish' [Cusack and George were childhood friends when they lived in Bray. See Cusack's letter to Watt dated 17 September 1990; item C2/3/3/3 (1)]. Cusack mentions that he is '(supposedly) engaged [...] on an autobiography' but is 'slipping into fatigue, whether permanently or otherwise [...]' An attempt was made to block out part of a line in the letter with black marker [?whether this was blocked out by Cusack, Watt or Colum Kenny is unclear]. The line appears to read: 'Possibly for that reason three of my progeny appear to have alienated themselves from their father.' A typed note by Watt addressed to Colum Kenny is included with the letter in which she gives the context for Cusack's mention of Kenny in the letter.

14 December 1992 - C2/3/3/3 (9)

Typed and signed 2-page letter with handwritten annotation by Cusack. Written in Dublin, the letter discusses Cusack's salary at the Abbey Theatre 'in those happy days', his recent health and reminisces about various childhood sweethearts. His handwritten annotation discusses his first wife, Maureen Cusack (née Kiely), whom he describes as a 'good actress' and a 'favourite of [Micheál] Mac Liammóir' [co-founder of the Gate Theatre]. Included is a typed note from Watt to Colum Kenny giving further context to Cusack's remark in his letter that he would 'not have been quite up to [Watt's] requirements and regulations even for a proposal.'

[?1993] - C2/3/3/3 (10)

Holograph 2-page letter. Cusack writes from London that he thought they 'might meet up this time but now it seems not like it.' He says he is 'afraid that my acting career is at an end, due to increasing deafness – a rotten complaint – on the stage [...]' He suggests though that he 'may yet be able for cinema or TV'. Letter also includes a typed note from Watt to Colum Kenny saying: 'On reading this again it seems rather prophetic.'

**Reference Code:** C2/3/3/4

**Title:** Letter from Mary Rose Cunningham to Grace Watt.

**Creation Dates:** 4 November 1993-[?17 November 1993]

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 2 items

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Cunningham writes to Watt regarding her husband, Cyril Cusack's, recent death and thanks Watt for her letter of sympathy. Cunningham discusses how Cusack and Watt 'went back along [*sic*] way', how Cusack had been diagnosed with motor neurone disease the previous April, and her wish that Watt and Cusack could have met again before his death.

Also includes a related note from Watt to Colum Kenny describing Cusack's death as '[t]he end of a particularly happy period in the latter part of [my] life which I owe entirely to you. If you had not spoken to Cyril none of this could have happened.' Watt included this note with the letter from Cunningham when she forwarded them onto Kenny in November 1993.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/3/5

**Title:** Letter from John (Jack) R Watt to Colum and Catherine Kenny.

**Creation Dates:** 26 November 1995

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 1 page

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Jack writes that his wife Grace died on 18 September 1995 'after three months being poorly.' He discusses Grace's final few days and closes by saying: 'We spoke of you both many times (Happy memories).'

**Reference Code:** C2/3/3/6

**Title:** Images of the Muggeridge family.

**Creation Dates:** [?1918-1926]

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 4 items

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** File consists of a photograph of George Muggeridge and printouts of a scanned postcard and photograph. The photograph was originally included with letters sent by Grace Watt (née Muggeridge) to Colum and Catherine Kenny (see letter from Watt to Kenny dated 21 September 1988; item C2/3/3/1 (1)). The printouts were likely created by Colum Kenny having scanned photographs and the postcard sent by Grace Watt. The original photograph and postcard are not included in the collection.

The faded black and white photograph of George shows him as a boy standing in the garden at 1 Herbert Terrace, Bray. A letter from Grace Watt (née Muggeridge) to Colum Kenny [see item C2/3/3/1 (1)] dated 21 September 1988 describes this photograph: 'Brother George among the cabbages in your garden!' To avoid exposure to visible and ultraviolet radiation (UV) during access, this photograph has been digitised and a high-resolution digital version is available for consultation in the reading room. Please consult with the archivist for access to the digital version.

The postcard printout is from 'Mother' [?Elizabeth Clara Muggeridge] to 'Darling Daughter' [?Mabel Elizabeth Muggeridge] and is dated 26 May 1924. The image on the front of the postcard (of people sitting on the strand and swimming in the sea at Bray Beach) apparently includes members of the Muggeridge family according a handwritten

annotation on the printout. The caption printed on the image is: 'The Sea Shore, Bray, Co. Wicklow'.

The photograph printout is a portrait of the Muggeridge family taken in a photographic studio. A typed note attached to the printout identifies the members of the family and the ages of the children in the image.

File also includes part of an envelope [in which the photograph of George Muggeridge was originally contained] with handwritten annotation [?Colum Kenny].

**Reference Code:** C2/3/3/7

**Title:** Photographs of Grace and John Watt, and 1 Herbert Terrace, Bray.

**Creation Dates:** c. 1990-February 1993

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 2 photographs

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Consists of a colour photograph of Grace and John (Jack) Watt sitting on an armchair in a living room, and a colour photograph of 1 and 2 Herbert Terrace, Herbert Road, Bray, County Wicklow. A handwritten annotation on the reverse of the photograph of Herbert Terrace identifies number 1 as the house with the red door. These photographs were originally included with letters from Grace Watt to Colum Kenny [see items C2/3/3/1 (2) and C2/3/3/1 (6)].

**Reference Code:** C2/3/3/8

**Title:** Promotional photographs, postcards and flyer featuring Cyril Cusack.

**Creation Dates:** 20 September 1992

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 10 items

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny



**Scope and Content:** Promotional photographs and postcards of Cyril Cusack acting in various theatre and television productions in the 1970s and 1980s. These items were enclosed with a letter from Cusack to Grave Watt [see item C2/3/3/3 (8)]. Most of the photographs and postcards include handwritten captions by Cusack on the reverse of the item.

File includes: photographs of Cusack in 'You Never can Tell' [Abbey Theatre production from 1978]; 'Cry of the Innocent' [television film from 1980]; 'Merchant of Venice' [Abbey Theatre production from 1984]; 'Carousel' [Tivoli Theatre, Dublin from 1991]; two photographs of Cusack in unidentified productions (one appears to be a theatre production). Postcards depict Cusack in the title role of the Abbey Theatre production of 'Hadrian VII' in 1970 (includes caption by Cusack: 'This speaks for itself – my papal blessing') and as Frederick Dorrit in the film 'Little Dorrit' [1987].

File also includes a promotional flyer for a National Theatre production of 'The Plough & the Stars' featuring an image of Cusack in the role of Fluther Good [in 1977].

Also included is an envelope [in which the items were originally contained] with handwritten annotations by Grace Watt and Colum Kenny. Watt notes: 'My favourite – "Cry for the Innocent". I have kept a couple – he sent me two of himself as the Pope. This was his sense of humour. He knew I was an atheist.'

**Reference Code:** C2/3/3/9

**Title:** Articles and research by Colum Kenny on Cyril Cusack's time living in Bray.

**Creation Dates:** 15 October 1993-27 June 2010

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 4 items

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** File includes newspaper cutting of article written by Colum Kenny published in *Bray People* on 15 October 1993. The article concerns Cyril Cusack's time living with the

Muggeridge family in Bray and includes many of the reminiscences included in Grace Watt's (née Muggeridge) letters to Kenny. Her letter to Kenny dated 27 October 1993 [see item: C2/3/3/1 (15)] discusses the article. Also includes a longer unpublished article by Kenny titled *Cyril Cusack Lived in Bray* and photocopies of the roll book (featuring an entry for 'Cyril O'Rorke' [Cusack's birth name]) from St Paul's National School, Bray, which Cyril Cusack attended.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/3/10

**Title:** Cyril Cusack obituaries and biographical articles.

**Creation Dates:** 8 October 1993-27 June 2010

**Level of Description:** File

**Extent and Medium:** 4 items

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Consists of printouts and photocopies of a book extract and a newspaper cutting. The obituaries are from the *Independent on Sunday* and *Irish Times*.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/4  
**Title:** Original finding aid and newspaper cuttings.  
**Creation Dates:** 2010-2011  
**Level of Description:** Series  
**Extent and Medium:** 1 file, 2 items  
**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny  
**Scope and Content:** Series consists of the original finding aid for the collection created by Colum Kenny, and a file of newspaper cutting printouts collected by Colum Kenny.

The finding aid was included with the collection when Colum Kenny donated it to DCU Library on 23 November 2011. The pages in this finding aid relating to Colum's work on certain RTÉ television programmes have been removed as they are currently closed for access.

The newspaper cutting mainly relate to the careers and lives of Kevin J Kenny and Michael B Kenny, and the history of Kenny's Advertising Agency.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/4/1  
**Title:** Kenny Family Collection: newspaper cuttings.  
**Creation Dates:** 2010-2011  
**Level of Description:** File  
**Extent and Medium:** c. 200 items

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** The newspaper cuttings provide a detailed insight into the life and career of Kevin J Kenny in particular, with many articles relating to his involvement in numerous professional, Catholic and charitable organisations.

Most of the newspaper articles were downloaded and printed from the website [www.irishnewsarchive.com](http://www.irishnewsarchive.com) by Colum Kenny. File also includes photocopies of photographs, publications associated with Kenny's Advertising Agency and newspaper cuttings.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/4/2

**Title:** Kenny Family (Dublin) Papers at DCU.

**Creation Dates:** 2011

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 26 pages

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** The original finding aid arranges the collection into three parts focussing on Kevin J Kenny, Michael B Kenny and Colum Kenny respectively, as with this present finding aid. The arrangement of the sub-series and descriptions differ mostly, but some have been maintained.

**Reference Code:** C2/3/4/3

**Title:** Closed sections of the original finding aid created by Colum Kenny.

**Creation Dates:** 2011

**Level of Description:** Item

**Extent and Medium:** 2 pages

**Name of Creator:** Colum Kenny

**Scope and Content:** Pages from the original finding aid relating to Colum's work on certain RTÉ television programmes which are currently closed for access.