



Bailiúchán  
Sheáin  
Uí Chléirigh

**The Jackie  
Clarke  
Collection**

# The Jackie Clarke Collection Guidebook



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**The Jackie  
Clarke  
Collection**



**MAYO COUNTY  
COUNCIL**



**Fáilte Ireland**



# WELCOME TO THE JACKIE CLARKE COLLECTION GUIDE

Welcome to the Jackie Clarke Collection, a treasure trove of over 100,000 artifacts, spanning 400 years of Irish history.

This unique collection was gathered by visionary local businessman Jackie Clarke (1927-2000) and bequeathed, in accordance with his wishes, by his widow Anne, to the people of Ballina in 2005. The donation was on two conditions: a suitable home was to be found for the collection in Jackie's beloved Ballina and there was to be no admission charge, thus opening "The Jackie Clarke Collection" to everyone who wishes to see it.

The first condition was fulfilled when Mayo County Council purchased and restored the former Provincial Bank, designed by Thomas Manly Deane, and located on Pearse Street in the heart of Ballina. Extensive work was carried out collating, cataloguing and archiving the vast collection by historian Sinead McCooile which opened to the public in 2013.

The archive itself is the most important private collection of Irish history artifacts in public hands, comprising items covering every aspect of our nation's history with a strong emphasis on the struggle for independence. It includes an original 1916 proclamation and an even rarer 1917 proclamation as well as artifacts associated with Theobald Wolfe Tone, and letters from Michael Collins, Douglas Hyde, Michael Davitt and O'Donovan Rossa. It also contains rare books, proclamations, posters, political cartoons, pamphlets, handbills, works by Sir John Lavery, maps, hunger strike material and personal items from the leaders of the 1916 Rising.

Jackie Clarke's vision was sharply focused on capturing objectively the evolution of Irish political thought from the 17th century. *"I want to leave a history of my country unedited for the people to judge,"* he said. The collection is his unedited treasure trove - for scholars, researchers and all lovers of Irish history. Thousands of items can be seen on display here in the Jackie Clarke Collection. Thousands more can be seen in our repository by appointment. It truly is, as our American representative Vincent Virga calls it, Ireland's Memory. Welcome to our treasure house.

**Austin Vaughan**  
*Mayo County Librarian*

**Edel Healy**  
*Manager,  
Jackie Clarke Collection*

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The late Mrs Anne Clarke  
-Donor of the Jackie Clarke  
Collection.

## Insert

The Late Jackie & Anne  
Clarke in the 1960s





## GRACED BY IRELAND'S MEMORY

BY VINCENT VIRGA

PORTRAIT BY CARL COREY

As the U.S. Representative for The Jackie Clarke Collection, I proudly welcome you to our beautiful home in this landmark building on the main street of Ballina.

When Mayo County Council invited me in 2009, to co-curate with Anne Clarke and others, a selection from Jackie's collection in the Ballina Town Library, I was deeply honoured. I am the author\* of an expansive visual history of my own country, *Eyes of the Nation* compiled with curators of The Library of Congress (LOC) in Washington, D.C. Like Jackie, I was determined to give my readers a thorough, balanced experience. The same intent drove *Cartographia: Mapping Civilizations*, also done with the LOC. It is on display in the Maps Room on the first floor. The layout

of the JCC is loosely based on the LOC because the material in both realms is parallel.

On first seeing Jackie's collection I was constantly reminded of my work with the Library Of Congress curators who were asked again and again by me, for example: *"Is this really the envelope on which James Madison scribbled in pencil the requests from several state representatives that became our Bill of Rights?"* Yes, Vinnie, this really is an original 1916 Proclamation! And, yes, Vinnie, this really is an Oxford Gazette from 1665! And, yes, these really are Wolfe Tone's letters along with the cockade from his hat! And these really are 19 notices issued by Dublin Castle during the 1798 Rebellion that enveloped Ballina. And these are really-truly letters from the major

figures in the 1916 Uprising! I will never forget watching local people identifying their family names on eviction notices from the Great Famine. I told Anne, *"If the LOC is America's Memory, the JCC is Ireland's Memory."*

How can I forget receiving the news that Fáilte Ireland had granted the collection € 1.7 million in response to the application I co-wrote? Or visiting the renovation site, looking up when it started to rain and asking for a roof over the courtyard; though not in the architect's plans, Mayo County Council readily approved it - thank God! Or being so excited about my JCC work that my friend Dan Barry decided he needed to see this place, flew over, and wrote a huge piece on us. It appeared in The New York Times on March 16, 2011 and I had the honour to giddily present it to the then Taoiseach at the Irish Embassy's St. Patrick's Day party after he had presented a gift from us to Vice President Joe Biden at my instigation! (That NYT is framed in the lobby.) Or my unbridled enthusiasm resulting in two JCC exhibits (funded by Culture Ireland) taking place in the American Irish Historical Society in Manhattan, my hometown. The ongoing joy of the Intern Programme I initiated with Villanova continues, expanding young American minds and sharing with them my love for the people of Ballina.

Being a Mayo Summer blow-in for 35 years, I am a profoundly grateful

member of the JCC Family, who along with Mayo County Council are the caretakers of this fabulous collection. I feel blessed to have learned the true meaning of the maxim created by historian Will Durant based on a statement by Aristotle: *"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence is not an act, but a habit."*

*For further information on all Vincent Virga's great works visit his website on*

*([www.vincentvirga.com](http://www.vincentvirga.com))*



## THE JACKIE CLARKE COLLECTION INTRODUCTION

Jackie Clarke, asked if he wanted to be remembered as a Historian or a Republican, replied: *"I could not profess myself to be a historian, but I love my town and I love finding things out about it. I want to be remembered as a Republican."* This latter was in reference to the universal description of one of his heroes, Wolfe Tone, the founder of Irish Nationalism. (A cockade belonging to Wolfe Tone can be viewed in the Collection. It is located in the Genius Collector Room.)

Clarke (1927-2000) was born in Ballina, Co Mayo. Wolfe Tone and his French troops formed part of a failed Irish attempt to drive the British out of Ireland in 1798. Skirmishes were fought in

and around the streets of Ballina, playing a major role in Clarke's, and all of County Mayo's, family lore. In his youth, people were still living in the lanes of Ballina as they had done during the Great Famine (1845-1852) when the population was decimated through hunger and emigration. Added to this were the legacies of the invading Cromwellian settlers, the mass evictions by landlords, and the struggles of the Land League during the Land War. (Samples of Eviction Notices and Land League artefacts can be seen in this Collection, located in Ireland's Memory Room.)

As a successful local fishmonger Clarke pioneered the smoked salmon international industry. It has been proposed that, like the mythical hunter/

warrior Finn McCool, Clarke himself tasted the Salmon of Knowledge as he judiciously purchased what he called “signposts” - 100,000 uncatalogued items - each one known only to himself - to be used as guides on a journey through the centuries of Ireland’s history: rare books, manuscripts, legal papers, photographs, pamphlets, hand-bills, newspapers, autograph books, news-sheets, circulars, reports, letters, 1916 Rising memos, periodicals, political cartoons, maps, minute books, theses, articles, and various proclamations. In the 1950s, his father brought him a cine-camera from America. He began documenting local happenings as living history.

In 1965 Jackie married Anastasia Smyth (known as Anne) and they had five sons. Clarke’s great friend Gerry Ginty, a former Town Councillor whose sister Frankie introduced Jackie and Anne, explains in a Memory Box interview shown on the first floor: *“In his whole life, three things were important to Jackie: his family, his business, and Republicanism in that order.”* Only Anne was aware of her husband’s paramount collection and just how vast it truly was, stored as it had been in boxes, on table tops, in bookcases and closets, framed on the walls, and stacked from floor to ceiling all over the house - even on the roof in a purposely built shed to amass the newspapers.

In 1996 Clarke first pledged his entire collection to the people of Ballina on condition that it be free to the public and a suitable home be found for it. Gertrude MacHale, a founding member of the North Mayo Historical and Architectural Society, recalls in her Memory Box interview how Jackie Clarke, a founder of the group in the 1960s, nursed a dream that his

collection be housed in the former Provincial Bank building designed by renowned architect Thomas Manly Deane, and constructed in 1881. Other examples of Deane creations include Government Buildings in Merrion Street, and the 1937 Reading Room at Trinity College.

Jackie Clarke died in 2000, but his dream was realised when Mayo County Council bought this landmark bank building in 2007, completely refurbished it, and finally officially opened the Jackie Clarke Collection in 2013 when it won the prestigious IDI Design Award for Exhibitions. This spectacular multi-media museum also unquestioningly embraces the heart of Jackie Clarke - a lifelong passionate collector of Irish history.

#### **Below**

Jackie Clarke outside the family newsagent’s



# LAYOUT OF THE ROOMS

This splendid building contains the following rooms – each displaying some of the many artefacts contained in the Collection:

## IRELAND'S MEMORY ROOM

This is the Collection's largest room, which has been carefully restored to its period splendour. It was originally the Provincial Bank's Business Hall (the remainder of the building was the manager's private residence.) The interactive exhibit offers visitors a sweep of the entire collection divided into twenty categories.

The bank vault in Ireland's Memory Room houses an original 1916 Proclamation, which Clarke called The Holy Grail. Pressing a button close by, visitors may opt to hear Irish actor Stephen Rae read the impressive text. In a smaller adjoining space, once a bank office, the second vault today contains the Genealogy Room, where people can track their family history on a computer linked to the data base of the National Genealogy Registry.



The War of Independence presently commands the stage in Ireland's Memory Room as part of Ireland's Decade of Centenaries. It follows on from the 1916 Uprising Exhibition and later on in this decade it will house an Irish Civil War Exhibition.

# THE GENIUS COLLECTOR ROOM

Jackie Clarke is described as a “*genius collector*” as a result of the sheer scope, depth and sharp focus of his life’s work of accumulating historical items. It is not a title imposed by outsiders, rather one that evolved organically from the material itself in the Jackie Clarke

Collection. Each historical item was prudently chosen to serve a specific purpose in the telling of Ireland’s history.

In an interview shown in the Genius Collector Room, historian Luke Gibbons explains Jackie Clarke’s interest in the small print of everyday life, not just official history. Clarke assembled a sort of epic history with a James Joyce eye for detail, travelling not only the highways of Irish history but also the byways and the boreens of Irish Memory. Other noted commentators in this video share their thoughts on what makes Clarke’s collection extraordinary. They include a rare book dealer, an antiquarian, a lecturer in Cultural Policy and Arts, and the original Manager of The Jackie Clarke Collection, Sinead McCool.

This room displays those treasures selected solely for their unique importance to Irish history regardless of their position in the timeline of historical events. Each celebrates Clarke’s brilliance in locating and



**Above**  
Ireland's Memory  
Room  
**Right**  
Genius Collector  
Room



acquiring rare historical documents in the fiercely competitive world of collectors; he worked shrewdly in the tradition of the mythical hunter/gatherer Finn McCool in the 7th century Fenian Cycle.

Currently on display in this Room is a large quilt made by the Remembrance Group for Mayo's Forgotten Famine Girls. These young girls were encouraged to emigrate to Australia during the Great Hunger (1845-1852) The quilt won the 2019 Mayo Meitheal Award, consisting of an Irish cut-glass trophy which is also on display.



## THE MAPS ROOM

This room illustrates perfectly why The Jackie Clarke Collection is known as *"Ireland's Memory."* Cited in the interactive exhibit's Introduction to Maps is a seminal book, *Cartographia*, written by Vincent Virga, U.S. Representative for the Jackie Clarke Collection: The subject of maps is fourfold: people, society, culture, and history. Each map is a set of visual clues revealing why it was made and how it was used. Each map expresses a social and political interest, of which there are many. Jackie Clarke was curious as to how his country was imagined in the earliest maps, how it was encoded in the language of geography throughout the ages. He knew that maps play a leading role in recording historical dramas, and that Irish maps contain a treasure trove of the country's centuries-old tumultuous past - of events shrouded

in its cultural memory. Maps are thresholds to trauma and complexities, organizational devices of cultural realms. Maps are storytellers. Being works of art, they are uniquely human and reveal the collective values of a community. Maps raise consciousness by capturing time and place. Vincent Virga adds: *"However, maps were considered temporary and were often destroyed when newer ones appeared on the scene with 'corrections'. In fact, the Greeks made their maps on wax tablets so they could be erased with each new discovery, which is why we have few, if any, ancient maps."*

When Anne Clarke donated the Jackie Clarke Collection in 2005, her primary motive was to have it serve the community, educate people, and play a vital role in the social life of Ballina. She lived with her husband's maps.



They were framed and exhibited in the stairwell of her home, carefully shielded from damaging light.

The final two interactive exhibits located in this room are The Map Archive, and Place Names and Their Meaning.

#### Left

NO RENT! c.1881.

During the bitter Land War of the late 1800's, tenants were urged not to pay rent as a vital form of protest

#### Right

Hybernianvnc Irland Map  
made by the Italian School  
c.1544-1642





## THE MEMORY ROOM

Over 100 mostly local people have recorded their memories of Jackie Clarke and of growing up in Ballina in the Memory Pod situated in this room. Combined with these oral histories is a powerful and moving slide show of Clarke's own photographs and other images he collected. It contains a selection of his visual record capturing local Republican parades, moments of community sorrow, and funeral processions. His visual literacy was not tied to any particular beliefs, but rather an historian's heartfelt response to transitory experiences, to reality, to the darker fabric of his world in Ballina.

The Banks of the Moy, an Irish ballad about Michael Davitt, Father of the Land League, sung by Jackie Clarke Volunteer Maggie Igoe can be heard in this room. (Several artefacts relating to Michael Davitt are archived in The Repository).



## THE LIBRARY

As a teenager during WWII, Clarke became aware of press censorship and how it affected the reporting of news and Irish current affairs. Ireland had only recently emerged from both the War of Independence (1919-1921) and the subsequent Civil War (1922-1923). Born just after these tumultuous years, Clarke was eager to learn more about those who had fought for their freedom and independence. He began to assemble his library of Irish History. (A selection of his books is contained in both The Library and in Ireland's Memory Room)

Attending Dublin's Blackrock College as a young border, Clarke's interest in the Easter Rising led him to write to activists, thus gathering information,

autographs, and memorabilia. He took every opportunity to browse book shops and stalls along the Dublin quays, thereby assembling the rudiments of Ireland's Memory.

In 1941, Jackie Clarke contacted the Irish Book Bureau owned by Joe Clarke (no relative), a survivor of the Battle of Mount Street Bridge during the 1916 Easter Rising. Joe guided him wisely in his collection of books. (Decades of this correspondence with Joe Clarke are archived in The Repository)

Jackie Clarke's fascination with Ireland's tragic history continued to drive him to educate himself on what happened before his birth, especially how Ireland was partitioned by the British. He learned the Irish language and spent time in the Belmullet Gaeltacht to perfect his oral and written Irish. He also enrolled in courses of Irish History at the local Vocational Educational College and became involved with the education committee of Sinn Féin (Ourselves Alone - Irish Republican political party formed in 1905). His personal library grew by leaps and bounds. He collected books from several sources: rare book dealers, auction catalogues, and private estate sales, such as the library of Douglas Hyde, first President of Ireland (1938-1945). (Hyde's Irish version of the Bible is on display in The Genius Collector Room.)

Clarke often bought several copies of a historically noteworthy book: one owned by the author, one owned by the book's main characters, and one clean copy for his research library. The books on display are but a fraction of his collection; the remainder of the volumes are contained in The Repository. Two interactive exhibits are presented on a table in the library.





These display some of Clarke's books with fold-out pages in a most innovative manner. Visitors may also watch a video interview with Anne Clarke. The Library's red wallpaper is a recreation of the original based on a fragment found behind a light switch.

## THE NEWSPAPER AND EPHEMERA ROOM

Clarke's father John was a Newsagent, Peace Commissioner, and an Urban District Councillor. He held the position of Mayor of Ballina in 1957. Jackie Clarke inherited his father's interest in local politics, distributing the Sinn Féin newspaper *The United Irishman* and sitting on the Town Council. Jackie Clarke himself assumed the position of Mayor of Ballina in 1982. His son Peter became the first third generation Mayor in 2011. (A complete run of *The United Irishman* is archived in The Repository)

One-third of Jackie Clarke's Collection

is comprised of newspapers. At an early age, Clarke realised that newspapers formed the pulse of the times. Though often censored in Ireland, they still contained enough information of what was happening in the world in relation to his country for him to start clipping relevant stories and pasting them with notes in scrap books carefully labelled "*J. Clarke Scrapbook*." (The first one from 1940 is currently on display in The Newspaper Room.) He was 12 years old when he started creating his many scrapbooks.

Jackie Clarke believed newspapers to be a form of memorabilia, a fragment of time, an ephemeral record that needed to be preserved. Similarly handbills, political pamphlets, news-sheets, circulars, proclamations, 1916 Rising dispatches, and eviction notices deserved equal conservation. These were things originally produced to have a short-term usefulness. Clarke considered these vital artefacts "*signposts*" to previous times.

(A selection of these poignant, historically indispensable primary documents, many of them unique, are incorporated in appropriate displays found in Ireland's Memory Room, The Genius Collector Room, and The Newspaper Room. The majority is housed in The Repository.)

Gertrude MacHale recalls in her Memory Pod interview asking Clarke why he possessed a copy of The Oxford Gazette from Christmas Day, 1665. He informed her of his desire to explain both sides in questions of historical importance. He collected dozens of different newspapers of every political hue because, as his wife Anne explained, Clarke wanted an informed public to judge for themselves.

As his collection grew, he became the go-to person in Ballina when anyone, including foreign visitors, wished to study their Ballina family histories. Clarke explained: *"If I can't answer a person's query, I know someone who*

*will."* ("Someone" was one of the voices included in his vast collection). Edel Healy, Collection Manager of the Jackie Clarke Collection at the time of writing, is a perfect example of this experience: she discovered, in the Eviction Notices Collection, papers relating to her great-great grandfather, William Holmes, evicted in 1885 for owing three pounds and forty pence. Connecting such personal historical dots was one of Jackie Clarke's greatest joys.

Clarke preserved this growing collection by wrapping bundles of newspapers in brown paper then tying them together with string. When he had used up all available room in his house, he built a shed on his roof to further accommodate his collecting. (One of these newspaper bundles is on view in The Genius Collector Room.)

The Newspaper Room also houses a small video screen with cine-camera footage. Clarke was enthralled by the moving image, and filmed short movies

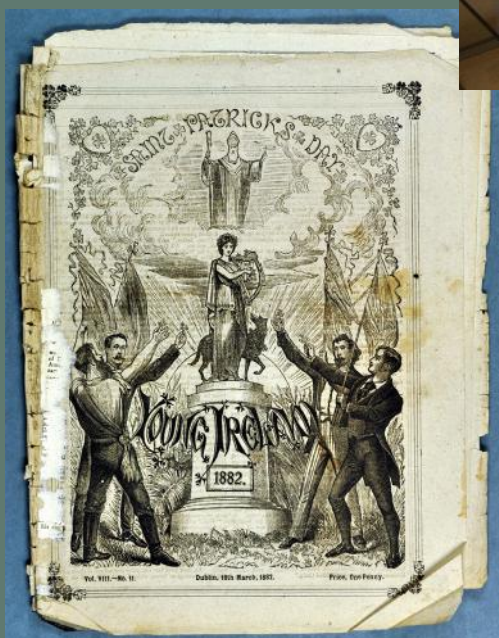


of local news, such as weddings, social events, parades, etc. This cine-camera archive can be explored in Ireland's Film Institute, the IFI, in Dublin.

One of the Newspaper Room's interactive exhibits, The Big Picture, shares Clarke's passion for movie magic. When the photo on the displayed newspaper's front page is touched by a visitor, it springs to life. The relevant footage was located in the RTE Film Archive and British Pathé. The breadth of Clarke's newspaper collection can be experienced in two further interactive exhibits: Introduction to the Newspaper Collection and the Newspaper Archive. A selection of the actual newspapers and other ephemera are on display in the archival drawers of the tall exhibition cabinets.

#### Below

"Young Ireland" Newspaper dated St Patricks Day 1882.



## THE POSTERS AND POLITICAL CARTOONS ROOM

Most political posters contain blunt facts, or perhaps artful announcements of upcoming events. Many of them are satirical jibes at the backstories of ongoing events. Together they build compelling narratives of former times, whilst promoting reflection on the moral and ethical issues of the day.



The cartoons trace the development of Jackie Clarke's nationalist sympathies while the posters reflect the struggles of the modern historical era. Together they offer compelling evidence of Clarke's complex vision of Irish history past and present.

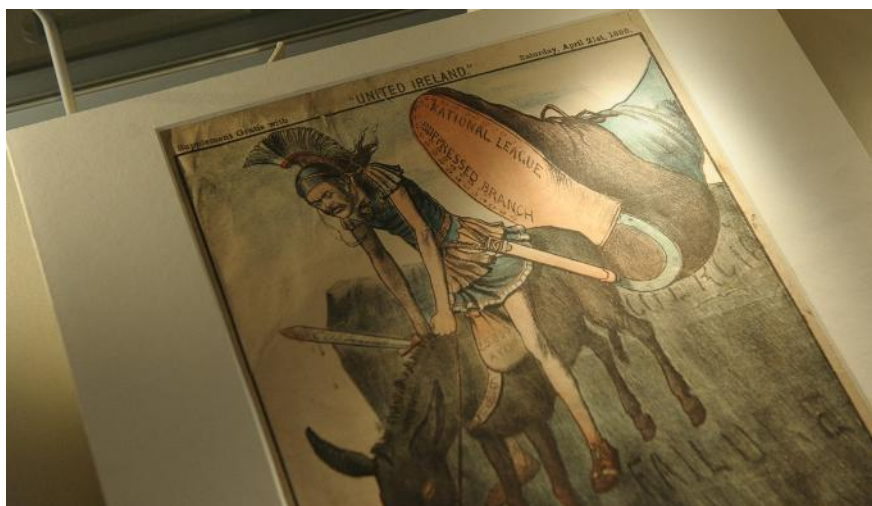
A selection of both posters and cartoons are on display. The complete archives of both are presented in digital slide shows.

#### **Left**

Digital Slide Show  
of some of Clarke's  
Political Posters

#### **Below**

A close up of a  
"United Ireland" Print  
dated Saturday April  
21st 1898



# OTHER ESSENTIAL FEATURES

## THE REPOSITORY

The entire archive of The Jackie Clarke Collection is securely housed on the top floor of the Pearse Street, Ballina Library, located just up the road from the bank building. This Repository is a professionally constructed archive which meets strict standards for curatorial excellence and allows for quick and efficient retrieval of documents. It contains both space for researchers and provision for pre-booked group activities (edutourism). Cataloguing the Jackie Clarke Collection's 100,000 items has been underway for some years under the guidance of the Manager, expert volunteers, and interns. The Repository is available to researchers by appointment only: [clarkecollection@mayococo.ie](mailto:clarkecollection@mayococo.ie).

## THE GARDEN

From 2017 to 2019, The Jackie Clarke Collection's garden was awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award for environmental excellence, horticultural standards, and community involvement.

The walled plot beside the old Provincial Bank building was considered a "secret garden" by the locals for decades. It was the private property of the bank manager's family. *"My father was born just two minutes away but neither he*

*nor any of the other Ballina residents ever saw it,"* Anne Marie Forbes highlighted. In her role as Community Development Liaison and Volunteer Coordinator, Forbes organizes events in the garden. *"My father was 67 years of age when he first stepped inside."*



In a 2016 interview with Aer Lingus magazine *Cara Forbes* further explained how the garden was chosen as one of the six most interesting gardens in Ireland. Regarding local people, she added: *"I love to see the look on their faces when they come in."*

The garden, designed by Axel Hens of Mitchell & Associates, incorporates lawns and indigenous Irish plants with a strip of wild meadow representing a typical Mayo field. Herbs flourish, which local restaurants and chefs are welcome to enjoy, along with

vegetables, fruits and many flowering shrubs. The garden also contains a bandstand and The Seomra - a small school room used to hold classes and exhibits. An insect hotel encouraging winged neighbours to nest is a delight to visitors of all ages. School children visit The Clarke Collection garden regularly to learn about the beauty of Mayo's natural world in its various seasons.

In 2012 the refurbished garden was officially opened to the public. Mayo County Council had acquired it in 2007 with the building for The Jackie Clarke Collection. Clarke's wife, Anne, was a prime mover in making this garden what it has become today. She envisioned it as a spot of serenity in her busy town, for groups to host major community events and Heritage Week Events (in 2014 the Jackie Clarke Collection won the Event Award) Anne also imagined the garden as a site for weddings, as well as a meeting place for friends and tourists alike. Benches and picnic tables invite local lunchtime visitors, too. Anne Clarke's dream has come true.



#### **Left**

Aerial Shot of the Collection's Award Winning Walled Heritage Garden

*Photo by David Beattie - My Irish Drone*

# THE JACKIE CLARKE COLLECTION EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Founded in 2013, the Jackie Clarke Collection Education Programme is dedicated to creating unique learning opportunities for younger generations in an inclusive and welcoming environment, in the heart of Ballina. This Programme offers young visitors and school communities a diverse range of specialised tours, workshops and events all year round.

It has grown steadily in recent years, thanks to the enthusiastic support of primary and secondary schools in the locality and across surrounding counties. The Jackie Clarke Collection has earned a reputation as a focal point for learning and discovery. History is the story of the past; the Education Department is committed to telling that story.

Just as Jackie Clarke discovered his life-long passion for Irish history as a schoolboy, the Education Programme

encourages young visitors to make lasting, tangible connections with his Collection. Each learning experience is centred around the priceless primary source material contained in the Collection, allowing young students to discover four centuries of Irish History in a truly meaningful way. The sheer breath of the Collection allows scope for a varied, innovative and ever-evolving programme which strives to spark the curiosity and imagination of each participant.

Education Co-ordinator Sinéad Mitchell Brennan is all too aware of the importance and joy of making such personal connections. As a university student, she was generously given access to the Collection - then still located in the Clarke family home - to help with her studies in Irish History.

*"As a native of Ballina, it is a real privilege to share the Collection and Jackie Clarke's love of Irish History with our many young visitors. I hope the treasures of the Collection will bring history to life through our workshops and events - just as it did for me - and perhaps inspire the next generation of historians!"*





**V** VILLANOVA  
UNIVERSITY



## FURTHER EDUCATION: THE JACKIE CLARKE INTERN PROGRAMME

An unparalleled experience is how one American student described his eight weeks' involvement in Ballina as an Intern at the Jackie Clarke Collection. This programme was initiated by Vincent Virga, U.S. Representative for the Jackie Clarke Collection, and implemented by Collection Manager Edel Healy, Anne Marie Forbes (Community Development Liaison and Volunteer Coordinator), and by Joseph Lennon, PhD and Director of Irish Studies at Villanova University, Pennsylvania, USA.

The Internship is unique in Ireland. As Edel Healy explains: *"Students stay in local rented accommodation with all that entails, too, so there's a real buy-in to the local community and we bring them to other museums. We give them an immersive experience."* The Interns are involved in all activities, from front of house duties welcoming visitors from all over the world, to cataloguing in The Repository, and creating an exhibition of their own while working on whatever is happening at the time in the Community Outreach Programmes. They are taken to local sporting events and are encouraged to tour Ireland in their free time. Plans exist to expand the successful Intern Programme to other U.S. universities.

# THE JACKIE CLARKE COLLECTION COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

The late Jackie and Anne Clarke formed an important part of the community of Ballina. It being Anne's heartfelt wish that this Collection be made universally available in the community itself and all surrounding areas, an immensely successful Community and Volunteer Programme, managed by Anne Marie Forbes, was established in 2010. Forbes is keenly aware of the privilege she enjoyed working closely together with Anne Clarke before Anne's death in 2015.

Throughout the year the Community and Volunteer Programme offers many and varied presentations, engaging with Ballina's local festivals and committees, in addition to countrywide events such as Nollaig

na mBan, National Heritage Week and Culture Night. The Programme is maturing with confidence, now taking part annually in International Women's Day celebrations.

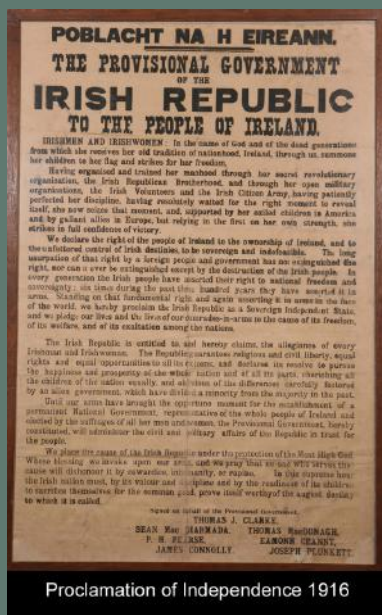
Working together with Volunteer Ireland and a local Volunteer Centre in County Mayo, the Jackie Clarke Collection prides itself in recruiting skilled volunteers from the Ballina area. Their expertise is gratefully absorbed from the fields of Education, History and traditional Irish Music, among many others. This Programme enables the volunteers to loyally support Forbes on a weekly basis in the Jackie Clarke Collection from January through December, producing exhibitions and assisting with the delivery of various events both in the historic bank building and the walled Heritage garden. All events are free of charge to those attending, thus leaving money in the pockets of the many visitors to spend in Ballina and its hinterland after each event, thereby assisting in the maintenance of a more vibrant economy in the West of Ireland.



# SUGGESTED KEY ITEMS TO SEEK OUT DURING YOUR VISIT

## The 1916 Proclamation

Housed in the old bank vault in Ireland's Memory Room, Clarke considered this original 1916 Proclamation to be his most treasured possession. Roughly one thousand copies were printed before the Easter Rising, but only some 50 known copies exist today between public and private collections. Read by PH Pearse outside the General Post Office building in Dublin at the start of the Rising, this document outlines the ideals of the new Irish Republic. Typographically, it is not a perfect document – for example, can you spot the upside-down letter 'e' in the last paragraph?



# Theobald Wolfe Tone's Cockade and handwritten letter

On display is a handwritten letter by and a cockade (or hat badge) belonging to Theobald Wolfe Tone. Tone was among the principal leaders of the 1798 Rebellion in which Ireland enlisted the help of France to gain independence. Many areas of Ireland have connections with this United Irishmen Rebellion, including Ballina and the surrounding hinterland. Killaola Bay, Co Mayo, was a landing point for the French in 1798. Today, there are still many French surnames in the area.

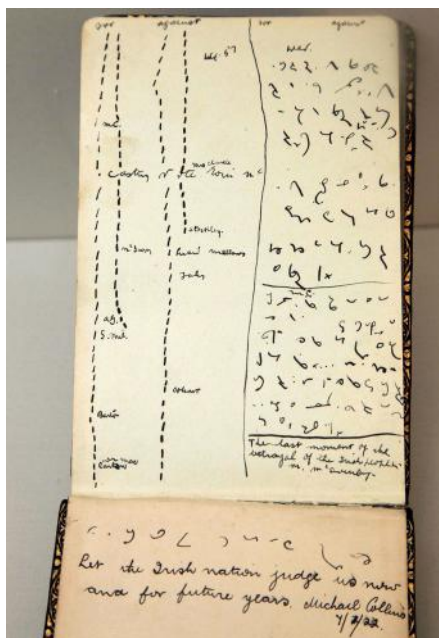


## Oxford Gazette 1665

The Christmas Day edition of the Oxford Gazette in 1665 is one of Clarke's oldest newspapers. In an attempt to escape the Plague, which was wreaking havoc in London, King Charles II retired to Oxford. He was unwilling to handle newspapers printed in London for fear of infection and had ordered the Oxford Gazette printed especially for this period.

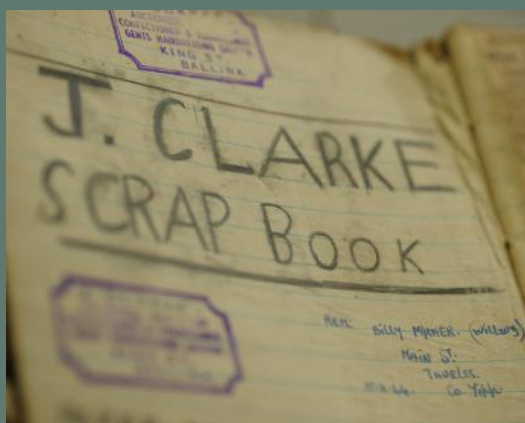
## The Treaty Notebook

This is a fine example of a remarkable document written contemporaneously during a historic event. The Treaty Notebook contains most of the autographs of those involved on either side of the Treaty Debate and the subsequent Vote in Dáil Éireann which took place from mid-December 1921 to early January 1922. On the page displayed you will see the tally of the votes and how close the result was. This divide over the Treaty would eventually lead to civil war in Ireland.



## Jackie Clarke's First Scrapbook

As the son of a newsagent Jackie Clarke had a keen interest in newspapers. A dedicated scrapbook compiler, he assembled his first scrapbook at the tender age of twelve. Look out for this book, located in the Library Room. A copy has been reproduced to allow you to flick through the pages.





## **SINCERE THANKS ARE HEREBY EXTENDED TO:**

- Austin Vaughan, County Librarian, Mayo
- All executives and staff members of Mayo County Council
- Vincent Virga – US Representative for the Jackie Clarke Collection
- Staff of the Jackie Clarke Collection – Edel Healy, Anne Marie Forbes & Sinéad Mitchell Brennan.
- Sandra O'Neill and Board Members of the Kilmoremoy Parish Development Project and all staff members to date



- Volunteers of the Jackie Clarke Collection; Volunteer Ireland and the local Mayo Volunteer Centre
- Niamh O'Sullivan Co Kilkenny, Editor
- Fáilte Ireland
- And finally a profound, endless Thank You to the late Jackie and Anne Clarke, for both their inspiration and for all treasures to be found in the Jackie Clarke Collection.



Bailiúchán  
Sheáin  
Uí Chléirigh

The Jackie  
Clarke  
Collection



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