

The Nan Quinn Collection

N76

The National Dance Archive of Ireland Glucksman Library University of Limerick

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Reference Code: IE 2135 N76 **Title:** The Nan Quinn Collection

Dates of Creation: c. 1895-c. 1996 (predominantly 1940s-1970s)

Level of Description: Fonds

Extent and Medium: 6 standard boxes, 1 outsize item (92 files)

CONTEXT

Name of Creator: Quinn, Nan (1899-1990).

Biographical History: Nan Quinn lived in Bessbrook, county Armagh, Northern Ireland and was introduced to Irish dancing by a nun in Bessbrook Convent in c. 1911. She established a traditional Irish dancing school in Bessbrook in 1933. She was a member of Cumann na mBan and a committed republican and was highly regarded in traditional Irish dance and republican circles.

Archival History: Unknown.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Donated by Tom Quinn to the National Dance Archive of Ireland on 21 October 2015.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Scope and Content: The collection comprises mainly paper documents relating to Nan Quinn's life and her interest in traditional Irish music and dance, religion, republicanism, and needlework. The archive contains an assortment of artefacts relating to her dancing activities, including trophies, medals, and recordings. Also included in the collection are a framed certificate and medals presented to Nan Quinn in recognition of her contribution to the Irish republican movement.

Appraisal, Destruction and Scheduling Information: Photocopies of original newspaper cuttings contained in the archive and one original newspaper cutting post-dating Nan Quinn's life were destroyed. All other records have been retained.

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

System of Arrangement: The material has been divided into seven series reflecting the life and interests of Nan Quinn. Series 1 comprises biographical notes. Series 2 comprises material relating to Irish dance, music, and folklore including programmes, notes, publications, sound recordings, medals, and trophies. Series 3 comprises manuscript notes and printed material of religious nature. Series 4 comprises material relating to Irish republicanism including correspondence, medals, certificates, and printed matter. Series 5 contains needlework patterns and magazines. Series 6 comprises press cuttings relating to politics, music, dance, religion, and republican events. Series 7 comprises a range of photographs primarily relating to dance, religion, and family.

CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE

Conditions Governing Access: Unrestricted access to all items except 2/6/1 and 2/6/2, which are too fragile to be safely handled. Digital access to the contents is available in the reading room – please check with a member of staff.

Conditions Governing Reproduction: Standard copyright regulations apply to all items. For photocopying or reproducing material, please consult with the staff.

Language/ Scripts of Material: Predominantly English, with some items in Irish.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Paper documents, photographs, medals, trophies, and recordings mostly in good condition. Items N76/2/6/1-2 require a reel-to-reel player. For digital access to contents, please check with a member of staff.

Finding Aids: A hard copy of the descriptive catalogue is available at the Special Collections Department, Glucksman Library, University of Limerick.

DESCRIPTION CONTROL

Archivist's Note: Papers arranged and described by Seán Cafferkey under the supervision of Anna-Maria Hajba.

Rules or Conventions: This description follows guidelines based on ISAD(G) 2nd edition, 2000, Irish Guidelines for Archival Description, 2009, National Council on Archives: Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names, 1997, and EAP Guidance on Data Protection for Archive Services, 2018.

Date of Description: March 2019.

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The Nan Quinn Collection

1 BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES (1990)

Also see 2/2/6

1/1 9 October 1990

Letter from Tomás Ó Faircheallaigh, president, The Irish Dancing Commission, 6 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2 to Tom Quinn, extending the Commission's sympathy on the death of Nan Quinn.

1 item

1/2 [c.1990]

Typescript obituary of Nan Quinn by Tomás Ó Faircheallaigh, with associated manuscript notes.

2 items

2 IRISH DANCE, MUSIC, AND FOLKLORE (1928-c. 1996)

Also see 3/3/1, 6/1/2-4, 6/2/1/1-8, and 7/2/1/1-5

2.1 <u>Leaflets and Programmes (1950-1994)</u>

2/1/1 1950

Leaflets containing the results of dance competitions at Feis Muirtheimhe [Memorial Festival], adjudicated by Caitlin Ni Chriochain, Carrysfort Training College, Blackrock, Dublin. In Irish and English.

2 items

2/1/2 30 September 1971

Official programme of Comórtaisí Rince Fé Ríalacha, Fleadh Dhún Dealgan [official dance competitions, Dundalk Festival] organised by An Coimisiún Le Rincí Gaelach [The Irish Dancing Commission]. In Irish and English.

1 item

2/1/3 1974:1993-1994

Programmes of Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne [Irish Dancing World Championships] promoted by An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha [The Irish Dancing Commission]. In Irish and English.

3 items

2/1/4 March 1988

Programme of events of Feis Mhuirtheimhne Dún Dealgan [Dundalk Memorial Festival]. Included in the programme are details of events concerning Irish language [teanga]; recitation [aithriseoíreachta]; traditional music [ceol traidisiúata]; dance [rince]; and drama [drámaíocht]. In Irish and English.

2 items

2/1/5 February 1994

Programme of competitions relating to Oireachtas Rince na hÉireann [Irish Dancing Championships] promoted by An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha [The Irish Dancing Commission]. In Irish and English.

1 item

2.2 Manuscript and Typescript Notes (c. 1930s-c. 1996)

2/2/1 [c. 1930s-1950?]

Manuscripts detailing the steps, movements, and dance positions relating to the 4 Hand Jig Dance, Armagh Quadrille, and The Crossover Jig. Also a manuscript note from 'Mary' to 'Tom' about the Armagh Set based on the Quadrilles, with references to Dani Hathaway, Mick O'Callaghan, and 'the fiddler Savage'. Also a music score entitled *Betty Black 8-Hand Dance*.

5 items

2/2/2 28 November 1971

Short manuscript by Nan Quinn entitled *Musing in Retrospect on Irish Dancing in South Armagh*. The document makes reference to her early introduction to Irish dancing, the establishment of her dancing school in 1933, her role in promoting and expanding Irish dancing, and her experience of collecting and preserving traditional Irish dances. Dances mentioned include *The Three Tunes, Trip to the Cottage*, and *The Sweets of May*, which she discovered in Slieve Gullion and Mullaghbawn, Newry, county Down. With a typescript of same.

2 items

2/2/3 [c. 1970s?]

Short manuscript by Nan Quinn entitled *Irish Dancing in South Armagh* about her experience of Irish dance in Bessbrook, county Armagh and its role in promoting Gaelic culture in South Armagh in the early twentieth century. Particular Ceili dances, dancing styles, and people involved in Irish dance are mentioned. Jigs collected following a chance encounter with a Company of Irish Volunteers from Belfast are documented. With a typescript of same. Also includes associated manuscript notes.

3 items

2/2/4 [c. 1970s?]

Manuscript lyrics of songs or poems entitled What Will You Do Love; Our Flag, and The Country I'm Leaving Behind.

3 items

2/2/5 [c. 1970s?]

Red notebook containing a list of Ulster slang words and sayings.

26 pp.

2/2/6 [c. 1996?]

Typescript entitled *The History of Irish Dancing* by the Very Reverend Anthony Davis, P.P. Dromara. The article includes a short biography of Nan Quinn, her early introduction to Irish dancing, the establishment of the Nan Quinn dancing school in 1933, and her role in collecting and preserving dances from Slieve Gullion, and Mullaghbawn, Newry, county Down.

6 pp.

2.3 Publications (c. 1974-c. 1990)

2/3/1 [c. 1974]

Publication entitled Rince: The Annual of Irish Dancing.

32 pp.

2/3/2 [c. 1987-1990]

Issues no. 59, 60, 61, 66, and 68 of *Céim – Iris Oifigiúil An Choimisiún le Rincí Gaelach* [Official Journal of the Irish Dancing Commission]. In Irish and English.

5 items

2.4 <u>Correspondence (1949-1979)</u>

2/4/1 22 September 1949

Letter from Patricia Mulholland, Mulholland School of Dancing, 17 Newington Street, Belfast to Nan Quinn thanking her for dance information and enquiring about the amount owed for same.

2 pp.

2/4/2 6 July 1973

Letter from Nan Quinn to 'Roisin' regarding late payment of dancing shoes.

1 p.

2/4/3 9 March 1979

Letter from Tom [Ó Faircheallaigh?], the Irish Dancing Commission to Nan Quinn requesting an article contribution to the Golden Jubilee Souvenir Magazine.

2 pp.

2.5 Medals and Trophies (1928-c. 1960s)

2/5/1 1928:1941:[1950?]

Medals relating to Irish dance and music, as follows: Double-sided pendant ornamented with an Irish Harp and Irish Spinning Wheel; Newry Musical Feis Silver Medal; Newry Musical Feis Bronze Medal; Feismor Ardmacha medal; and Corcarina medal inscribed 'Nan' on the reverse. With a related leather pouch.

6 items

2/5/2 [c. 1930s-1960s?]

One large and 29 small dance trophies, unengraved.

30 items

2.6 <u>Recordings (c. 1970s)</u>

2/6/1 [1973-1974]

Reel-to-reel audio tape containing on side 1 a mixture of popular hymns and Christmas songs, including Suffer Little Children, Christmas and You, and Silent Night; comic skits; extract from the Queen's Christmas speech 1973; traditional Irish music and songs; and popular hits including Playground in My Mind, You Are the Sunshine of My Life, Ip Dip Chipperdy Dip, You Won't Find another Fool like Me, Thanks for the Memories, and This Time of the Year. Total duration 01:36:56. Side 2 contains a mixture of popular songs, including Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue (Has Anybody Seen My Gal), Some of These Days, I Understand (Just How You Feel), If You Were the only Girl (in the World), and By the Time I Get to Phoenix; extracts from musicals including Clap Hands, Here Comes Charlie, Jesus Christ Superstar, For Me and My Gal, part of a programme bringing in the New Year 1974; and part of a programme featuring Irish and Scottish folk songs. Total duration 01:33:44. The material appears to have been recorded randomly from the radio or TV. The quality of recording is poor. This item is too fragile to be safely handled. Digital access to contents available in the reading room – please consult with a member of staff.

2/6/2 [c. 1970s?]

Reel-to-reel audio tape containing on side 1 music to accompany four figures (wheel; show the lady; slide; ladies in) and the Hornpipe (change partners) of The Kerry Set (00:00:00-00:18:55); six figures (pass through; slide; little Christmas; cross and hold; the gallop; wheel and change partners) of The Plain Set (00:19:15-00:37:12); and five figures (the square; pass by; big Christmas; little Christmas; change and line up) of The Lancers (00:37:34-00:53:30). Side 2 is blank. This item is too fragile to be safely handled. Digital access to contents available in the reading room – please consult with a member of staff.

1 item

3 RELIGION (1937-1979)

Also see 6/1/2, 6/2/2/1-3, and 7/2/2/1-4

3.1 Manuscript and Typescript Notes (c. 1970s)

3/1/1 [c. 1970s?]

Manuscript note by Nan Quinn entitled Truth of The Catholic Church.

1 p.

3/1/2 [c. 1970s?]

Manuscript by Nan Quinn entitled Prayer of a Mother To Her Son['s] Ordination.

2 pp.

3.2 Publications (1937-1979)

3/2/1 1937

Catholic magazine *The Raphaelite*, bearing inscription 'From uncle P. to Nan with best love'.

79 pp.

3/2/2 [1942]

Catholic yearbook Capuchin Annual, lacking front cover. Fragile.

706 pp.

3/2/3 [c. 1960]

Brochure of a Basilica in Montreal, Canada.

3/2/4 [c. 1960]

Leaflet relating to St. Patrick's Missionaries, Kiltegan, county Wicklow.

1 item

3/2/5 [c. 1979]

Sheet containing lyrics to the hymns Hymn to Saint Oliver, Now Thank We All Our God; and God Bless Our Pope (adapted).

1 p.

3/2/6 1979

Booklet entitled Celebrations During the Visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to Ireland.

64 pp.

3/2/7 16 September 1979

Church bulletin from Redemptorists, Saint Joseph's, Dundalk entitled Why Is The Pope Coming.

1 item

3/2/8 23 September 1979

Church bulletin from Redemptorists, Saint Joseph's, Dundalk entitled *Cead Mile Failte to Pope John Paul.*

1 item

3/2/9 September 1979

Leaflet entitled Week of Prayer in Preparation for Visit of Pope John Paul II relating to Church activities in Dundalk, county Louth.

1 item

3.3 Correspondence (1979)

3/3/1 23 July 1979

Letter from Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich, Archbishop of Armagh, thanking Nan Quinn for her gift of linen tablecloth and napkins. The letter contains a handwritten postscript stating that the Cardinal is a past pupil of Nan's dance school.

4 REPUBLICANISM (1917-1971)

Also see 6/1/1, 6/1/2, and 6/1/5

4.1 Souvenir Booklets and Programmes (1945-1966)

4/1/1 17 May 1945

Reprint from *The Irish Press* of Éamon de Valera's broadcast to the nation in response to Winston Churchill's World War II victory address, in which de Valera was criticized for refusing the British access to Irish ports during the war. In English and Irish.

5 pp.

4/1/2 19 April 1954

Souvenir programme of the Irish Republican Army Pre-Truce Association's procession and parade in Dundalk, county Louth on Easter Monday.

31 pp.

4/1/3 24 November 1963

Souvenir booklet commemorating a Fianna Fáil presentation dinner to Frank Aiken T.D., Minister for External Affairs, on the occasion of his fortieth year as Deputy for county Louth to Dáil Éireann.

5 pp.

4/1/4 1966

Souvenir programme of the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the 1916 Rising by Fourth Northern Division, IRA Veterans, signed by Nan Quinn. In Irish and English.

16 pp.

4.2 **Books (1917)**

4/2/1 1917

Sinn Fein Rebellion Handbook – Easter 1916, published by The Weekly Irish Times, Dublin. The handbook claims to be 'A complete and connected narrative of the Rising with detailed accounts of the fighting at all points'.

285 pp.

4.3 <u>Correspondence (c. 1966-1972)</u>

4/3/1 [c. 1966]

Open letter from a 'committee of nationally minded citizens' seeking funding for 1916 Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

1 p.

4/3/2 [c. 1971?]

Manuscript draft of a letter by Nan Quinn responding to a letter in the *Sunday News* about the troubles in Northern Ireland.

3 pp.

4/3/3 12 September 1972

Letter from Nan Quinn's cousin 'Patsy', 19 South Curtis Avenue, Alhambra, California, 91801 USA apologising for not visiting Nan while home in Ireland because she was 'too scared to go North'.

1 p.

4.4 Medals and Certificates (1921-1971)

4/4/1 [1920s]

Mounted and framed certificate issued by Óglaigh na hÉireann [Irish Republican Army] Fourth Northern Division to Annie Quinn in recognition of her contribution to the fight for Irish freedom. Outsize.

1 item

4/4/2 1921

1917-1921 Service Medal awarded by the Department of Defence to persons who were members of Cumann na mBan during the revolutionary period 1917-1921. Item in original box.

1 item

4/4/3 1971

Truce Commemoration Medal issued to veterans of the War of Independence in receipt of the 1917-1921 service medal. Item in original box.

1 item

4.5 Ephemera (1965-1966)

4/5/1 1965-1966

Statement of accounts of the Fourth Northern Division of the Old IRA for 1965-1966.

1 p.

5 NEEDLEWORK (c. 1895-1974)

5.1 <u>Magazines (c. 1895-1974)</u>

5/1/1 [c. 1895]

Weldons Practical Crochet, vol. 33, no. 386 (Fragile); vol. 33, no. 389; and vol. 34, no. 405. Also four undated loose-leaf pages from Weldons Practical Crochet – volume and issue number unknown.

4 items

5/1/2 [c. 1910]

Needlecraft: A Practical Journal Descriptive and Illustrative of Irish Crochet Lace. (Fragile).

14 pp.

5/1/3 [c. 1918-1925]

Fancy Needlework Illustrated, vol. III, no. 26 (fragile); and vol. 4, nos. 46 and 47. 3 items

5/1/4 1931:1973-1974

Woman's Weekly, 10 January 1931; 22 December 1973; and 9 November 1974. 3 items

5/1/5 November 1939

November 1939 issue of Stitchcraft.

17 pp.

5/1/6 [c. 1930s]

Weldons Practical Needlework, nos. 122 (fragile); 128; 134 (fragile); and 314. Also single-sheet supplements to nos. 122, 128, and 134.

4 items

5/1/7 3 May 1958

Woman's Day, vol. 1, no.7 (3 May 1958).

1 item

5.2 <u>Loose Patterns (c. 1950s-1960s)</u>

5/2/1 [c. 1950s]

Maggie, The Wool from Donegal knitting pattern for a woman's jacket (The Achill Jacket).

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5/2/2 [c. 1950s]

Ard Finnan knitting pattern No. 104 for a woman's jacket (the Myra Aran Jacket).

1 item

5/2/3 [c. 1950s]

Sirdar knitting pattern No. 2023B for a ladies' cardigan.

1 item

5/2/4 [c. 1950s]

Weldons pattern No. A936 for knitted and crocheted caps.

1 item

5/2/5 [c. 1950s]

Strutt's Milford crochet patterns for a plant potholder and a pineapple bonbon bowl.

2 items

5/2/6 [c. 1950s]

Knitting patterns and fashion items cut out from magazines.

28 items

5/2/7 [c. 1930s-1960s?]

'Ada's Practical Crochet Companion' published as a supplement to *Weekly Companion*. Contains eight patterns including 'A Paris Hat' and various lace designs.

1 item

6 PRESS CUTTINGS (1916-1979)

Also see **7/1/1**

6.1 <u>Scrapbooks (1921-1972)</u>

6/1/1 1921-1922

Scrapbook containing press cuttings relating to various episodes of violence in the Newry area, county Down immediately before and after the 1921 Anglo-Irish Treaty. Also cuttings relating to P.H. Pearse and family.

25 pp.

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6/1/2 [c. 1925-1965]

Scrapbook containing press cuttings relating to church matters, republican figures, dancing, and Irish-American politics.

38 pp.

6/1/3 1930s-1940s

Scrapbook containing press cuttings mainly of Irish music and dance festivals [feiseanna] held in Northern Ireland in the 1930s and 1940s.

70 pp.

6/1/4 [c. 1952-1960]

Scrapbook containing press cuttings of Irish dancing competition results. *Fragile.* Also eight loose press cuttings on similar topics.

9 items

6/1/5 [c. 1972]

Sketch pad used as a scrapbook containing press cuttings relating to a Bloody Sunday incident, which took place in the Bogside area of county Derry, Northern Ireland on 30 January 1972.

46 pp.

6.2 <u>Loose Items (1916-1979)</u>

6.2.1 Relating to Dance (c. 1930s-1960s)

Also see 6/1/2-4

6/2/1/1 [c. 1960]

Press cutting of Eamon de Valera opening the Down feis at Newcastle, county Down.

1 item

6/2/1/2 [c. 1930s-1960s?] (date of original)

Photocopy of a press cutting containing two photographs of pupils from the Nan Quinn School of Dancing.

1 item

6/2/1/3 [c. 1930s-1960s?] (date of original)

Partial photocopy of a press cutting containing two photographs [relating to dance and drama?].

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6/2/1/4 [c. 1930s-1960s?] (date of original)

Photocopy of a press cutting relating to dancing competition results.

1 item

6/2/1/5 [c. 1930s-1960s?] (date of original)

Photocopy of a press cutting containing a photograph of Nan Quinn with trophies.

1 item

6/2/1/6 [c. 1930s-1960s?] (date of original)

Photocopy of a press cutting relating to a televised ceili from Newry Town Hall.

1 item

6/2/1/7 [c. 1930s-1960s?]

Press cuttings relating to Irish dancing competition results.

3 items

6/2/1/8 [c. 1930s-1960s?]

Press cuttings relating to Irish dancing events.

2 items

6.2.2 Relating to Religious Topics (1916-1979)

Also see 6/1/2

6/2/2/1 6 April 1916

Issue of *The New Freeman* newspaper [Catholic publication, Diocese of St. Johns New Brunswick, Canada]. *Fragile*.

1 item

6/2/2/2 29 September-7 October 1979

Complete issues of Evening Herald, The Dundalk Democrat, and The Armagh-Down Observer, and an Irish Times supplement containing extensive coverage of Pope John Paul II's visit to Ireland.

4 items

6/2/2/3 [c. 1979]

Photocopy of a press cutting relating to the opening of the new Sisters of Mercy Convent at Maghernahely, Bessbrook.

6.2.3 Other Press Cuttings (c. 1930s-1973)

6/2/3/1 [c.1930s-1960s?]

Poor-quality photocopy of a press cutting containing a photograph of a football team [from c. 1914?] with the caption 'Where Are They Now?'.

1 item

6/2/3/2 7 September 1973

Issue of Irish Weekly.

1 item

7 PHOTOGRAPHS (c. 1940s-1950s)

7.1 Albums (c. 1950s)

7/1/1 [c. 1950s?]

Photograph album containing c. 300 black and white images of family members, children, and dancers. Also press cuttings relating to the deaths of Mary Quinn (sister of Nan) and Edmund Burke, and the retirement of Mr. J. G. Burke. *Damaged Spine*.

46 pp.

7.2 <u>Loose Items (c. 1940s-1950s)</u>

7.2.1 Relating to Dance (c. 1950s?)

7/2/1/1 [c. 1950s?]

Black and white full-length studio portraits (c. 80 x 130 mm) of dancers and musicians alone and in pairs, some with trophies and instruments.

6 items

7/2/1/2 [c. 1950s?]

Black and white full-length studio portrait (154 x 205 mm) of three dancers with trophies.

1 item

7/2/1/3 [c. 1950s?]

Black and white studio portrait (215 x 165 mm) of a group of dancers with trophies.

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7/2/1/4 [c. 1950s?]

Black and white photographs (80 x 125 mm and 120 x 80 mm) of dancers in pairs, groups, or alone, some with trophies.

10 items

7/2/1/5 [c. 1950s?]

Black and white photographs (50 x 80 mm; 80 x 50 mm; 60 x 54 mm; and c. 50×50 mm) of dancers alone and in groups.

7 items

7.2.2 Images of Religious Nature (c. 1940s-1950s)

7/2/2/1 [c. 1940s?]

Black and white full-length studio portraits (c. 80 x 130 mm) of children in holy communion dress.

10 items

7/2/2/2 [c. 1950s?]

Black and white photograph (125 x 80 mm) of a child in holy communion dress in front of a building.

1 item

7/2/2/3 [c. 1950s?]

Black and white full-length studio portrait (110 x 155 mm) of a child in holy communion dress.

1 item

7/2/2/4 [c. 1950s?]

Black and white photograph (55 x 80 mm) of three priests standing in front of a doorway.

1 item

7.2.3 Other Images (c. 1950s?)

7/2/3/1 [c. 1950s?]

Black and white photograph (115 x 60 mm) of a man in the countryside.

1 item

7/2/3/2 [c. 1950s?]

Black and white photograph (80 x 55 mm) of a group in front of a doorway.

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7/2/3/3 [c. 1950s?]

Black and white photograph (55 x 80 mm) of two people looking at a piece

of paper [?].

1 item

7/2/3/4 [c. 1950s?]

Black and white photograph (80 x 120 mm) of Nan Quinn with a block of

terraced houses in the background.