



**The Terry and Nancy Bowler Papers**

**N47**

**The National Dance Archive of Ireland  
Glucksman Library  
University of Limerick**

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The Terry and Nancy Bowler Papers**

**Reference Code:** IE 2135 N47

**Title:** The Terry and Nancy Bowler Papers

**Dates of Creation:** 1953-2012

**Level of Description:** Fonds

**Extent and Medium:** 83 items (59 files)

**CONTEXT**

**Name of Creator(s):** Bowler, Terence ("Terry") Aloysious (1928-2003) and Bowler, Nancy (née Browne, b. 1932).

**Biographical History:** Terry Bowler was born in London on 21 June 1928. His mother was from Dublin and his father from Dingle, Co. Kerry. The family was very musical and had their own Irish band, which during the war played in all the Irish Halls in London. Terry became interested in Irish dancing at the age of 11, when he began to take lessons from Maura Sheehan. In the early 1940s he joined Charlie Smith's School of Irish Dancing in London and became one of its best dancers, coming second in the All England Championships in the late 1940s. He was also interested in teaching and in 1948 opened his first class in St. Monica's Hall in Hoxton, East London.

Nancy Brown was born in Mallow on 6 November 1932, but grew up in Cork city. At the age of 4, she joined Joan Denise Moriarty's ballet classes in Mallow but within a few months abandoned ballet and took up Irish dancing. Between the ages of 4 and 8 she was taught by Kevin O'Connell, Peggy McTaggart and finally by Cormac O'Keefe, with whom she remained until the age of 18. She was the winner of the Junior Championships two years in succession at Feis Matiu. She also won the Munster championship in the 1940s and came second in the Thomond Belt in Limerick in 1949. In 1952, she moved to London for treatment for a medical condition. While waiting for corrective surgery, she joined Charlie Smith's School of Irish Dancing in London, initially as a dancer and soon after as a teacher.

Nancy Brown met Terry Bowler in Chelsea at an Irish dancing event in 1952, and the couple married in 1956. They began teaching together in the Bowler School of Dancing in London in 1953, and in that same year were invited to do a tour in Lower Austria. In 1967, Terry and Nancy became the first married couple ever to achieve the A.D.C.R.G. examination at the same time. They both taught Irish dancing for the Inner London Education Authority from 1955 to 1990, and other classes until 1995. For many years, they also taught Irish dancing to the pupils of the Royal Ballet School. As teachers, the couple's roles were very clear cut, Terry creating choreographies and Nancy polishing the acts. Their dance teams won numerous competitions, including the Figure Dance World Championships in the 1970s. In addition to his love of dancing, Terry Bowler was an accomplished graphic artist and columnist.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition:** Donated by Nancy Bowler to the National Dance Archive of Ireland on 24 August 2012.

## CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

**Scope and Content:** Correspondence, programmes, press cuttings, and photographs providing an insight into Terry and Nancy Bowler's dancing and teaching careers, particularly their involvement in teaching Irish dancing to the pupils of the Royal Ballet School in London. Also cartoons and illustrated articles demonstrating Terry Bowler's skills as a graphic artist.

**Appraisal, Destruction and Scheduling Information:** All records have been retained.

**Accruals:** Accruals are possible.

**System of Arrangement:** Documents have been divided into three series: biographical notes, documents relating to Irish dancing, and material relating to Terry Bowler's career as a graphic artist. Within each series, documents have been further divided by their form and thereunder arranged chronologically by date.

## CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE

**Conditions Governing Access:** Unrestricted access to all items.

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

**Language/ Scripts of Material:** English.

**Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:** Paper documents, photographs, and recording in good condition. Item N47/1/4 requires a PC or laptop with VLC Media Player, Windows Media Player, or RealPlayer.

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

## ALLIED MATERIALS

**Existence and Location of Originals:** A small number of items in this collection are colour photocopies of original documents in Nancy Bowler's possession.

## DESCRIPTION CONTROL

**Archivist's Note:** Papers arranged and described by 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:** February 2013. Revised October 2020.

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The Terry and Nancy Bowler Papers

**1 BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES (2003-2012)**

1/1 [c. May 2003]  
Colour photocopy of Terry Bowler's obituary, to which is attached a post-it note correcting a mistake in paragraph 2.

2 items

1/2 24 August 2012  
DVD containing an interview by Dr Catherine Foley with Nancy Bowler at University College Cork. The interview revolves around Nancy's early interest in Irish Dancing; her teachers Joan Denise Moriarty, Kevin O'Connell, Peggy McTaggart, and Cormac O'Keeffe; her teaching career in London between 1952 and 2000; her meeting with her future husband Terry Bowler; and their work in the Royal Ballet School. Duration 00:34:17.

1 item

1/3 [c. 2012]  
Short typescript biography by Nancy Bowler of Terry Bowler's life and dancing career.

2 pp.

1/4 [c. 2012]  
Short typescript autobiography by Nancy Bowler of her own life and dancing career.

2 pp.

**2 RELATING TO IRISH DANCING (1953-1992)**

**2.1 Correspondence (1964-1989)**

2/1/1 5 December 1964 (date of original)  
Colour photocopy of a letter from Robert Harrold, Honorary Secretary, The Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing, 84 Wendover Court, Chiltern Street, London W1 to Terry Bowler, 62 Astonville Street, Southfields, London, regarding a teaching session for the Society.

1 p.

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- 2/1/2** 25 March [1965?]  
Letter from Robert Harrold, Honorary Secretary, The Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing, 84 Wendover Court, Chiltern Street, London W1 to Terry Bowler, 48 Stroud Road, London SW19, acknowledging Bowler's agreement to teach at Congress. 1 p.
- 2/1/3** 3 April 1967  
Letter from E. Kelland-Espinosa, The British Ballet Organization, Woolborough House, 19 Lonsdale Road, London SW13 to Terence Bowler, 48 Stroud Road, London SW19, thanking Bowler and his dancers for a stimulating demonstration and class. 1 p.
- 2/1/4** 16 May 1975 (date of original)  
Colour photocopy of a letter from L. S. Michael, Chairman, Board of Governors, Chelsea Westminster Institute, Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, London SW3 to Terry Bowler, Marlborough School, congratulating Bowler and the Irish Dancing Group in coming first in the London Championship, and second in the Great Britain Championship. 1 p.
- 2/1/5** 23 July 1979  
Letter from Pauline Wadsworth, Ballet Mistress, The Royal Ballet School, White Lodge, Richmond Park, Surrey to Terence Bowler, 17 Watson Avenue, North Cheam, Surrey, congratulating Bowler with his success with the critics for the Royal Ballet School Irish performances. 1 p.
- 2/1/6** 25 July 1979 (date of original)  
Colour photocopy of a letter from Barbara Fewster, The Royal Ballet School, 155 Talgarth Road, Barons Court, London to Terry Bowler, 17 Watson Avenue, North Cheam, Surrey, congratulating Bowler on his contribution of Irish dancing for the school performance at Covent Garden earlier in the year and regretting that she is unable to find time to perpetuate Irish dancing as part of the children's training. 1 p.
- 2/1/7** 22 July 1981  
Letter from Barbara Fewster, The Royal Ballet School, 155 Talgarth Road, Barons Court, London to Terry and Nancy Bowler, 17 Watson Avenue, North Cheam, Surrey, congratulating them on the production of a set of Irish dances [probably *Dances of England and Ireland*, for which also see **2/2/2** and **2/3/10**]. 1 p.

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- 2/1/8 26 July [1982?]  
Letter from James Monahan, Director, The Royal Ballet School, 155 Talgarth Road, Barons Court, London to Terry Bowler, congratulating Bowler on the success of his production [probably *Dances from England, Ireland and Scotland* which was performed on 22 July 1982, for which also see 2/1/9 and 2/2/3].  
1 p.
- 2/1/9 28 July 1982  
Letter from Barbara Fewster, The Royal Ballet School, 155 Talgarth Road, Barons Court, London to Terry and Nancy Bowler, 17 Watson Avenue, North Cheam, Surrey, thanking them for the Tara Brooch which will be placed in the school archives as a memento of the dance the Bowlers produced this year [probably *Dances from England, Ireland and Scotland*, for which also see 2/1/8 and 2/2/3].  
1 p.
- 2/1/10 17 June 1987  
Letter from Pauline [Wadsworth], The Royal Ballet School, White Lodge, Richmond Park, Surrey to Terry Bowler, giving Bowler an account on the performance of his pupils at Putney Fair and wishing him a speedy recovery.  
2 pp.
- 2/1/11 13 September 1989 (date of original)  
Colour photocopy of a letter from J. Regan [?] on behalf of the Education Officer, Inner London Education Authority (ILEA), The County Hall, London to Terence Bowler, 17 Watson Avenue, North Cheam, Surrey, confirming that Bowler is eligible to receive a long service memento.  
1 p.

## 2.2 Programmes (1979-1982)

- 2/2/1 11 July 1979  
Programme of a performance of *Four Kingdoms*, *Concerto Barocco*, *Checkmate*, and *Sinfonietta* by the Royal Ballet School at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. The first piece was produced by Terry Bowler.  
1 item
- 2/2/2 18 July 1981  
Programme of a performance of *Dances of England and Ireland* and *La Fille mal gardée* by the Royal Ballet School at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. The first piece was produced by Terry Bowler. For related items, see 2/1/7 and 2/3/10.  
1 item

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2/2/3 22 July 1982  
Programme of a performance of *Dances from England, Ireland and Scotland; Here We Come*, and *Giselle* by the Royal Ballet School at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. The first piece was produced by Terry Bowler. For related items, see 2/1/8-9.

2 items

### 2.3 Press Cuttings (c. 1953-1992)

2/3/1 [c. 1953]  
Press cutting relating to a troupe of Irish dancers who are rehearsing for their forthcoming tour in the Russian-occupied zone of Austria under the leadership of Terry Bowler. For a related photograph, see 2/4/1.

1 item

2/3/2 [c. 1950s-1970s] (date of original)  
Photocopy of a press cutting featuring Ian Wilkins of the Bowler Academy of Dancing, winner of the Boys' Belt (Irish dancing under 16) at Feis Maitiu twice in succession.

1 item

2/3/3 [c. 1966-1970] (date of original)  
Photocopy of a press cutting featuring a photograph of Maria Collins of the Bowler Academy of Dancing, London receiving the Doyle Trophy from the Reverend Father Nessian, President of Feis Maitiu, Cork.

1 item

2/3/4 [c. 1972] (date of original)  
Photocopy of a press cutting featuring a photograph of the Bowler Academy of Dancing junior team (under 16s), winners of the World Championship in Dublin.

1 item

2/3/5 8 November 1975  
Press cutting from *The Irish Post* in which the newspaper assures its readers of its neutrality on the issue of three distinct Irish dancing organisations even though its columnist Terry Bowler is a member of one of them.

1 item

2/3/6 [c. 1976]  
Press cutting featuring a photograph of Kevin Conneff, the new member of The Chieftains, posing with members of the Bowler School of Irish Dancing.

1 item



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- 2/3/7** [1979]  
Press cuttings relating to the news that traditional Irish dancing will in future be part of ballet training at the Royal Ballet School under the tuition of Terry Bowler.  
4 items
- 2/3/8** [c. 1970s-1980s]  
Press cutting containing two letters to the editor, by Dick Coss and Terry Bowler, under the caption 'In Defence of Terry Bowler'. The letters were written in response to criticism directed against Bowler by Liamín Bean Uí Chonccuir, secretary to the Gaelic League in London, published in an earlier issue of the newspaper.  
1 item
- 2/3/9** [c. 1970s-1980s]  
Terry Bowler's 'Irish Dancing Scene' columns from *The Irish Post*.  
11 items
- 2/3/10** 20 July 1981 (date of original)  
Photocopy of a review of the performance of *Dances of England and Ireland* and *La Fille Mal Gardée* by the Royal Ballet School at Covent Garden. For related items, see **2/1/7** and **2/2/2**.  
1 item
- 2/3/11** 21 August 1992 (date of original)  
Photocopy of an illustrated press cutting relating to the performance by the Senior Troupe of the Bowler Academy of Irish Dancing at the 1992 Europeade. Also see **2/4/12-14**.  
2 items

### **2.4 Photographs (1953-1992)**

- 2/4/1** 1953  
Black and white photograph (87 x 116 mm) of Terry and Nancy Bowler performing in Austria. For a related press cutting, see **2/3/1**.  
1 item
- 2/4/2** [c. 1960s]  
Black and white photograph (258 x 203 mm) by Gerard Harrington of Terry and Nancy Bowler with the Minor Team (under 12).  
1 item

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- 2/4/3** [c. 1960s-1970s]  
Black and white photograph (252 x 130 mm) of the Senior Team (over 16).  
1 item
- 2/4/4** [c. 1970s] (date of original)  
Photocopy of a black and white photograph of Terry Bowler in front of a class of Irish dancing students.  
1 item
- 2/4/5** [c. 1970s] (date of original)  
Photocopy of a colour photograph of John and Linda Fryday, Junior and Senior Irish dancing champions.  
1 item
- 2/4/6** [c. 1970s] (date of original)  
Photocopy of a black and white photograph of (L) Miriam Roche, London Senior Champion, and (R) Linda Fryday, London Junior Champion.  
1 item
- 2/4/7** [c. 1970s] (date of original)  
Photocopy of a black and white photograph of a group of Irish dancers rehearsing in costume.  
1 item
- 2/4/8** 1988 (date of original)  
Photocopy of a colour photograph of Terry and Nancy Bowler with the Senior Team (over 16) at the Galway World Dancing Championships.  
1 item
- 2/4/9** [c. 1980s] (date of original)  
Photocopy of a black and white photograph of a group of Irish dancers posing with a trophy.  
1 item
- 2/4/10** [c. 1980s] (date of original)  
Photocopy of a black and white photograph of three Royal Ballet School pupils performing in Irish dancing costumes.  
1 item

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- 2/4/11** [c. 1980s]  
Colour photograph (130 x 89 mm) of a group of Irish dancers (under 12) in Southampton, posing outdoors with their trophies.  
1 item
- 2/4/12** 1992  
Colour photograph (150 x 103 mm) of a group of Irish dancers performing in an atrium in Portugal during the 1992 Europeade. Also see **2/3/11**.  
1 item
- 2/4/13** 1992  
Colour photograph (150 x 101 mm) of a group of Irish dancers performing in a bullring in Portugal during the 1992 Europeade. Also see **2/3/11**.  
1 item
- 2/4/14** 1992  
Colour photograph (150 x 101 mm) of four Irish dancers dancing a reel in a bullring in Portugal during the 1992 Europeade. Also see **2/3/11**.  
1 item
- 2/4/15** [c. 1992]  
Colour photograph (130 x 88 mm) of four girls in Irish dancing costumes in Belgium, posing in an urban setting.  
1 item
- 2/4/16** [c. 1992] (date of original)  
Photocopy of a colour photograph of a group of Irish dancers dancing on the street in Belgium. The dancers are facing the camera.  
1 item
- 2/4/17** [c. 1992] (date of original)  
Photocopy of a colour photograph of a group of Irish dancers dancing on the street in Belgium. The dancers have their backs to the camera.  
1 item

**2.5 Ephemera (c. 1950s-1990s)**

- 2/5/1** [c. 1950s-1990s]  
Typescript of an address [by Terry Bowler] to an unidentified society on the present form of Irish dancing and its two main categories, step (solo) and figure (group) dancing.  
3 pp.

### 3 RELATING TO TERRY BOWLER AS AN ARTIST (1971-1991)

#### 3.1 Cartoon Strips (1971-1972)

- 3/1/1 [1971]  
Cartoon strips of 'Deirdre the Dancer' by Terry Bowler from *The Irish Post*, with a related post-it note. The strip ran in that paper for 14 weeks.  
2 items
- 3/1/2 [1972]  
Cartoon strips of 'Eugene Molloy, Special Agent' by Terry Bowler.  
2 items
- 3/1/3 [1970s?]  
Cartoon strip of 'Deirdre and the Smugglers' by Terry Bowler [from *The Irish Post*].  
1 item

#### 3.2 Features (1991)

- 3/2/1 4 January 1991  
*The Irish World* feature entitled 'Deirdre and the Sons of Usnach' written and illustrated by Terry Bowler.  
1 p.
- 3/2/2 26 April 1991 (date of original)  
Photocopy of *The Irish World* feature entitled 'The Day Cúchúllain First Took up Arms' written and illustrated by Terry Bowler.  
2 items
- 3/2/3 21 June 1991  
*The Irish World* feature entitled 'Sava, the Mother of Oisín' written and illustrated by Terry Bowler.  
2 items
- 3/2/4 2 August 1991 (date of original)  
Photocopy of *The Irish World* feature entitled 'The Pot of Gold' written and illustrated by Terry Bowler.  
2 items

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- 3/2/5** 4 October 1991  
*The Irish World* feature entitled 'How the Cattle Raid of Cooley Began'  
written and illustrated by Terry Bowler.  
2 items
- 3/2/6** 8 November 1991 (date of original)  
Photocopy of *The Irish World* feature entitled 'How Cuchullin Kept the  
Gap of the North' written and illustrated by Terry Bowler.  
2 items
- 3/2/7** 13 December 1991 (date of original)  
Photocopy of *The Irish World* feature entitled 'Cuchullin Parleys with  
Maeve' written and illustrated by Terry Bowler.  
2 items

### **3.3 Press Cuttings (1975-1990)**

- 3/3/1** [c. 1975?]  
Press cutting relating to the Chelsea Open Air Art Exhibition, which  
included artwork by Terry Bowler.  
1 item
- 3/3/2** 30 November 1990 (date of original)  
Photocopy of a feature in *The Irish World*, entitled 'Terry Bowler – Man of  
Many Talents' by Martin Doyle, focusing on Bowler's skills as an artist.  
1 p.