



GP2/

TOMÁS BAIRÉAD PAPERS

1920 – 1973

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GP2

TOMÁS BAIRÉAD PAPERS

1920-1973



Tomás Bairéad, (1893-1973)
Journalist and Irish language author



Produced by
Galway County Council Archives
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Galway

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Introduction

The archive collection was donated to Galway County Council Archives by Ms Treasa Bairéad Mhic Mhathúna, Tomás's daughter in 2004. A condition of the deposit was that it be made available to readers in An Cheathrú Rua. To facilitate this condition the collection was microfilmed and digitised, so that a CD of the collection is thus available in An Cheathrú Rua branch Library.

The collection contains 168 listed items dating from 1920 to 1973. It consists primarily of newspaper clippings of reviews and articles relating to Bairéad's work, together with letters from friends and colleagues which Bairéad received throughout his life. Many of the correspondents were themselves important figures writing in and promoting the Irish language, in particular Máirtín Ó Cadhain (1906-1970), who is described in one source as "an authority on Irish literature and culture ... Considered the most outstanding writer in Irish of his generation, both at home and abroad"¹. It also includes rough notes and drafts of his work, together with several photographs, and material relating to his career as a journalist.

The collection is important for anyone interested in the Irish language, its 20th century literature and writers. It gives a glimpse of Bairéad's life, and highlights his contribution to Irish language writing. The material referring to the 1916 Rising and subsequent events should also be useful to those interested in modern Irish history. For instance, it includes details of events in the Moycullen area during Easter week 1916, and includes references to the 1919 local election (GP2/74), and also includes a transcript of the Irish Republican Brotherhood's oath (GP2/103). The collection is peppered with names associated with Irish republicanism and politics, such as Liam Mellows (GP2/107-108), Seán McDermot (GP2/75 and 77), Éamon De Valera (GP2/31-32, 66, and 142), and Jack Lynch (GP2/74). The letters from Bairéad's friend, Mochadh Ó Dabhorionn, (GP2/71 - 80), are touching in that they reveal something of the loneliness of an Irish emigrant; "...nearer to me than Érin go Brac with all its faults and shortcoming, it is to me the greatest and is closest to my heart. It was too bad that fate made me leave there for as you have said more than once before it was there that I did belong" (GP2/74, p5).

¹ ed. McRedmond, Louis (1996)

Modern Irish Lives Dictionary of 20th century Biography, Dublin 1996, p233



Biographical Note

Thomas Barrett (1893-1973), An Bairéadach, or Tomás Bairéad, as he was also known, was a journalist and Irish language author.

He was born in on 7 July 1893 in Ballydotia, Moycullen, county Galway, to Michael Barrett, a farmer, and Mary Barrett, nee McDonagh. He married Ellen Maher (1903-1947) from Clonard, county Westmeath in Corpus Christi Church, St Martin's (Maiden Lane), London on 25th June 1930. Ellen's father, James was also a farmer. They had two daughters, Treasa, a nurse, and Maura, a librarian.

Bairéad was a member of the Moycullen group of the Irish Volunteers (Óglaigh na h-Éireann) in 1916. He was a member of the IRB and Sinn Féin, and administered the IRB oath to new members. He was friendly with Liam Mellows and Proinsias Ó hEidhin (see GP2/105-107), and others who were leaders of the 1916 Rebellion in county Galway. He was one of a group of Volunteers involved in the burning of the RIC Barracks in Rosmuc in 1920. For these and other republican activities he spent sometime in Galway Gaol.

When he was barely 17 years of age Bairéad was involved in cattle rustling. The cattle, in the ownership of the landlord George Burke, were driven from Burke's land at Cnoc a' tSean Bhaile. Bairéad's involvement in this activity was in reaction to the eviction of a number of his neighbours by the landlord, and resulted in him spending some time in goal.

Bairéad was also a fine athlete and sportsman, and as a young man played football and hurling with his native parish team.

Bairéad was primarily self-educated. He commenced his journalistic career with the *Galway Express*, a weekly republican paper, in about 1917. When the paper's printing press was destroyed by the RIC and Black and Tans in 1920, he transferred to the *Connacht Tribune*. During this period he had an address at 5 Nuns' Island, Galway.

He was appointed to the staff of the *Irish Independent* on 18th September, 1922 (GP2/14). In 1945 he became responsible for the Irish language page. In 1930 he purchased the family home, 3 Beechmount Villas, Glasnevin, Dublin, where he lived until he retired to Moycullen in 1948. While with the *Independent* he travelled to and reported on various Celtic Congresses held in Wales, Scotland and the Isle of Man (GP2/20), and in 1943 he reported on Éamon De Valera's general election campaign (GP2/31).

He wrote extensively during the 1930s and 1940s. His first collection of short-stories, *Cumhacht na Cinneamhna*, was published by *An Gúm* in 1936. The collection received very positive reviews, with the *Connacht Tribune* writing, 'In originality, technique and language, those stories probably surpass anything of their kind published in Irish', and 'It will not be surprising if a few of those stories find their way among the classics' (1937, GP2/125). The *Irish Times* wrote, "While the language is rich, idiomatic and adequate, the stories themselves



could well be the authentic work of a novelist in any language' (GP2/127). Bairéad was awarded the O'Growney Award by the Irish Academy of Letters for this collection in 1937.

His next collection *An Geall a Briseadh* followed shortly afterwards, again published by *An Gúm*. This was a collection of short stories and sketches dealing mainly with scenes and events familiar to Bairéad in his native countryside. This book also received positive reviews, such as one writing that Bairéad "...is undoubtedly a discovery and a decided addition to the ranks of Gaelic writers" (GP2/127). For this collection he was awarded the Douglas Hyde Literary Fund ('Ciste an Chraoibhin Aoibhin'), in 1938 for the best original work in the Irish language. The book was placed on the syllabus for the Matriculation (University entrance examination) in 1940 (GP2/131), and later the Department of Education included it on the school syllabus for 1953-1954.

His next accomplishment was *Cruithneacht agus Ceannabháin*, published by Talbot Press in 1940. This was a collection of 13 short stories. In 1949 *Ór na hAithinne* was published.

His last great work, *Gan Baisteadh*, which is semi-autobiographical, contained 33 chapters each telling a different story. This was published by Sáirseal agus Dill in c. 1972.

In 1973 *As an nGéibheann* was published. This was a collection of the correspondence between Tomás and Máirtín Ó Cadhain, during Máirtín's time in prison.

Bairéad also received awards for other short stories, such as Second Prize in Class 4, Irish, Short Story for his entry 'Ruaidhri Ruadh, an Stiléara', in the Tailteann Literary Competitions in 1931 (GP1/145), and an Oireachtas Certificate for first prize for the short story, 'Duais an Mhaolánaigh' in 1951 (GP1/150). Bairéad's daughter, Treasa (the donor of the collection) also has in her possession a medal inscribed as follows, 'Aonach Tailteann 1932 (an Bhainnriogain Tailte).

Bairéad died on 26 October 1973 following a short illness.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into several sections. The first consists of private papers, which include items such as birth and marriage certificates, and the second contains photographs. The third consists of material relating to his career as a journalist. Section D, the most voluminous section, is comprised of letters and material from friends and acquaintances, such as Máirtín Ó Cadhain and Colm Ó Gaora. Given Bairéad's and his friends' common interests in the Irish language and publishing, and his access to the media some of the items in this section might just as easily have fitted into either section C or E. The remaining sections contain letters relating to publishing, reviews and articles, receipt of literary awards, and rough notes and drafts. In instances where the intended context of items, such as GP2/7, was difficult to determine with certainty they were placed in whichever section was considered most appropriate.



Item number GP2/102(b) was added to the collection at a late stage². It bears no relation to GP2/102(a). Given that its context is uncertain it was inserted for chronological reasons at this point in the section titled Friends and Acquaintances.

If the language used is Irish this is indicated, either at section or item level, if not indicated the language used is English.

At the request of the donor a letter (GP2/18) has been closed, until 2010. Out of respect for a named individual and his family another letter (GP2/72) is also closed until 2026. However, as this letter contains much interesting detail regarding the events of 1916, the 1919 local elections, and the Civil War a censored copy of the letter is available.

Most of the material is in manuscript form, though some is typed. Approximately half of the items are in Irish, in the old written form, *an clódh Gaelach*.

The item reference number (GP2/?) should be used in full when citing from the records in this collection. The most appropriate form of reference is Title of item: date of item: Reference number (GP2/?), Galway County Council Archives.

The collection was listed by Anne Ridge, and edited and arranged by Patria McWalter, Archivist in 2005.

Condition

The collection is generally in good condition, though some of the newspaper is discoloured and becoming fragile. For preservation purposes all newspaper clippings have been photocopied.

The collection has also been microfilmed and digitised so that a CD version is accessible to readers in the An Cheathrú Rua Library.

Access

The material in this collection is available to all bone fide researchers, and subject to the conditions of access governing the consultation of archival material at Galway County Council Archives. No material may be reproduced from this collection without the written permission of the archivist, and reproductions are subject to the conditions of access.

² Donated by the depositor after listing was completed.

**Bairéad's Bibliography**

- *Cumhacht na Cinneamhna*, 1936, An Gúm
- *An Geall a Briseadh*, 1937, An Gúm / Oifig Díolta Foillseachtaí Rialtais/ Publications Branch of the Department of Education
- *Cruithneacht agus Ceannabháin*, 1940, Talbot Press, Dublin
- *Ór na hAithinne*, 1949, Dublin
- *Gan Baisteadh* [1972], Sáirseal agus Dill
- *Dán*, [1972/'73], Sáirseal agus Dill
- *As an nGéibheann* (1973)

**Allied Material***Primary Sources***James Hardiman Archives, NUI, Galway**

- Ó Cadhain, Martin, Catalogue: Catalogue of the papers and books of the Irish language author, G9
- Ó Conaire, Pádraic: Photocopy of a 1925 letter hand-written by Ó Conaire to Tomás Ua Conchcainnainn which details his biography, in Irish, from his birth in Galway in 1883 to his education and work as a Civil Servant in London, G7.

Secondary Sources

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Breathnach, Pádraic | <i>Tomás Bairéad, spleacadh ar an bhfear agus ar a shaothar</i> ,
Feasta, 28(4), 1975, 7012 |
| | <i>Cúntas ar Shaothar Thomáis Bairéad (1893-1973)</i>
Croabh Maigh Cuilinn de Chonradh na Gaeilge, 101-106; - <i>Curtha in eagar ag Tíreasa Mhic Mhathúna</i> |
| Maher, Helen | <i>Galway Authors</i>
Galway, Galway County Libraries, 1976 |
| Ó Cearnaigh, Seán | <i>Scribhneóirí na Gaeilge 1945-1995</i> , 32 |
| Ó Clardha, Pádraic | <i>Ainmhlí agus díne léamh ar ghearscealta Thomáis Bairéad</i>
Irish. <i>Mhá Nuad</i> , (1976), 39-46 |
| Ó Murchú, Niall | <i>Tomás Bairéad: an fear agus a shaothar mar ghearscealaí</i>
M.A., Thesis, St. Patrick's College Maynooth (1989) |
| Kavanagh, Mary | <i>Galway - Gailimh A Bibliography of the City and County</i>
Galway County Council, 2000 |

**Abbreviations**

GAA	Gaelic Athletic Association
GPO	General Post Office
IRA	Irish Republican Army
IRB	Irish Republican Brotherhood
n.d.	No date given
RIC	Royal Irish Constabulary
UCC	University College Cork
UCG	University College Galway
TCD	Trinity College, Dublin



Acknowledgment

Galway County Council Archives wishes to acknowledge with sincere appreciation the grant received from The Heritage Council, to assist with the micro-filming and digitising of the collection for preservation and access purposes.





GP2

TOMÁS BAIRÉAD PAPERS

1920-1973

**A. Private Papers, 1920 – 1973**

1. 30 June 1937 Certified copy Birth Certificate for Bairéad, born on July 7th 1893 in Ballydotia, Moycullen to Mary Barrett (nee Mc Donagh) and Michael Barrett. 1 item

2. May 1920 Standard letter from the Returning Officer (Workhouse, Galway) appointing Thomas Barrett (5 Nuns Island, Galway) to act as Poll Clerk at Annaghdown School, for the Election of District Councillors on 1st June 1920. 1 item

3. 2 June 1926 - 2 June 1936 Irish Free State Passport issued to Thomas Barrett on 2 June 1926 for 5 years, and renewed in 1931 for a further 5 years. 1 item

4. 25 June 1930 Marriage certificate for Thomas Barrett, 36 years, to Ellen Maher, 27 years, married on 25th June 1930, in Corpus Christi Church, St Martin's, (Maiden Lane) London, witnessed by F.J. Cronin, and C. Butler, and signed and dated by the Registrar, W.D. Parkhouse. 1 item

5. 16 July 1930 Stamped receipt from [] for cheque payment of £50, for a Dining Room suite, carpets, fittings and so on. 1 item

6. 18 July 1930 - 8 August 1930 Receipts from James O'Connor & Co., Solicitors, Dame Street, Dublin, issued to Bairéad in respect of the deposit and the "...balance purchase money on 3 Beechmount Villas, Glasnevin" (8 August 1930). 2 items

7. 1948 Ration Book (unused) issued 1948, to Bairéad, Cill Raignhgh, Maigh Cuilinn. 1 item



8. July 1966 Circular letter from the Nurse Elizabeth O'Farrell Foundation Committee, together with pamphlet, requesting a subscription for the Foundation, which was established to commemorate O'Farrell, who 'carried the flag of peace at the end of the 1916 insurrection'. The pamphlet outlines the Foundation's ideals, and lists the names and addresses of the Honorary Treasurers, to whom a subscription can be sent. (Teresa Bairéad (Bairéad's daughter) is listed on the headed notepaper as a Committee member).
- 2 items, 4pp
9. 2 November 1973 Newspaper obituaries for Bairéad, 'the noted Irish scholar', reporting that he died in Calvary Hospital, Galway, and that the funeral prayers were in Irish. He is referred to as "duine de na scribhneoirí ba clóiti a tháinig chugainn as Gaeltacht na Gaillimhe san aois seo." (*Connacht Tribune*). (Irish)
- 2 items

B. Photographs, c.1920 – late 1960's

10. [192-?] Mounted black and white studio upper body photograph of Donncha MacCon Uladh³, with a moustache, jacket, collar and tie, from the J Ross, 54 Grafton Street, Dublin studio.
- 1 item / 175 x 235 mm
- See also GP2/125
11. [191-?] Mounted black and white full length studio photograph of Pádraic Ó'Conaire (1882-1928, novelist, short story writer, and story-teller) and his wife, Molly MacManus; she is sitting and he is standing.
- 1 item / 100 x 160 mm
12. [193-?] [Copy] of a formal black and white upper body photograph of Eibhlín Ní Mheara Bairéad, wife of Bairéad, she is facing the camera, wearing a jacket, v-neck blouse, and a simple string of pearls.
- 1 item / 120 x 165 mm
13. 193-- [196-?] Formal studio photographs of Bairéad, two are sepia, two are black and white, and another is a copy of a black and white photograph. All show his upper body only, wearing a suit and tie, and in one wearing a fáine (c. 1930s), one is mounted (c. 1930s).
- 5 items

³ Referred to in *Gan Baisteadh*, see p153



C. Journalistic Career

i. General Material, 1922 - 1962

14. 28 August 1922 - 14 October 1922 Letters from the Independent Newspapers to 'Thomas Barrett' regarding his appointment to the reporting staff of the Irish Independent, salary and other conditions, and confirming his start date of 18th September 1922. 2 items 3pp
15. 6 April 1925 - 28 February 1929 Letters from the Independent Newspapers to Bairéad relating to salary increases. 3pp
16. 9 August 1924 Postcard from Foyle Booksellers, London, to Bairéad giving a list of titles, dates and prices of books relating to journalism and writing, such as "Writing to Sell", and "A Course in Journalistic Writing". 1 item
17. 9 February 1925 Letter from Seán Ó Maoilidhia (Corr an Dola, Gaillimh) to Bairéad, thanking him for his letter and advising that Riocard Ó Móráin, the Editor of the [*Connacht*] *Tribune*, suggested he write to Bairéad, if he had some pieces in Irish for the *Independent*. He wonders if the Editor of the *Independent* would print some essays he has written, which he intends to include in a book, and refers to songs in English he has translated into Irish which he hopes could be published in the weekly or *Sunday Independent*. (Irish) 1p
- See also GP2/49, 50, 64, 74
18. 15 May 1925 **CLOSED until 2010** Letter from P. Ó Droighneain (Moycullen) to Bairéad, asking Bairéad to send him an account of court proceedings. (Irish) 1p
19. 1926 - 1932 Membership cards for the Oireachtas Press Gallery and the Parliament of Northern Ireland Press Gallery issued to Bairéad. 2 items



20. 18 July 1927 -
6 July 1938 Celtic Congress : File of Congress Programmes, together with a programme for a Celtic Concert (5th July 1931), and four reporter's cards. Programmes include annotations and shorthand notes. Dr Douglas Hyde, University College, Dublin is listed as a delegate, speaker or member of the Committee in several of the Programmes.
Approx 105pp / 10 items
21. 25 April 1928 Telegram from *The Independent* in Dublin to Bairéad at Union Hotel, Belfast, with instructions of interviews to be carried out by him. Includes envelope.
2 items
22. 11 August 1928 Entrance pass issued by Aonach Tailteann to the *Irish Independent* "to all events except Billiards, Dramatic Art, Swimming and Vision Play", valid between 11th to 26th August 1928. (Irish)
1 item / 1p
23. 9 October 1929 -
12 October 1929 An Fáiinne, Garra Átha Cliath membership card issued to "Tomás Baréad" (*sic*) for 1928-29, together with an envelope addressed to Bairéad, "Reporters Room, Irish Independent, Baile Átha Cliath"(12 October 1929). (Irish)
2 items
24. 1937 Membership card for the National Union of Journalists, valid for 1937.
6pp
25. December 1937 -
1939? Newspaper articles relating to farming, clothing, the blackthorn stick by Michael J. Murphy and 'Sabháilt an Fhóghmhair' sa nGhaedhealtacht' by Peadar Ó Domhnaill. The article 'An Maor Bocht agus a Threud' by Maor Bocht is annotated 'Tomás Bairéad' under it. The "maor" in this instance means herdsman who explains the work entailed in looking after sheep. (3 Irish articles, one English)
4 items
26. 1938? Newspaper article in praise of Tomás Ó Máille (1893-1938), referring to his great knowledge of old Irish, middle Irish and modern Irish, and stating that a memorial will be raised in acknowledgement of his work, but that the preservation of the language would be more fitting than stone and mortar. (Irish)
1 item



27. n/d Newspaper clipping of a letter to the editor of 'Scéala Éireann' in response to an article in the *Sunday Independent* by Séamus Ó Tallamhain, on 'Gaeilgeoiri in nArm Shasana.' (Irish)
Difficult to decipher, in poor condition
2 items
28. March 1934 -
May 1939 Newspaper articles on various topics, in particular religious traditions and customs relating to prayer and Lent. Includes a transcript of the Irish prayer, 'Luireach Phádraig', a translation of St. Patrick's Breastplate from old Irish into modern Irish by An tAthair Ó Maolaithe, and people made, giving different instances from the author's own childhood (29 March 1934). (4 in Irish, 2 in English)
6 items
29. 21 August 1939 Postcard from J. Fenton (Queen's Hotel, Lisdonvarna, county Clare) to Bairéad requesting a copy of his 'Galway talk'.
1 item
30. 193- Rough notes written on the title page of *Nutall's Standard Dictionary of the English Language*, annotated with Bairéad's name and address, includes some Irish phrases, and notes relating to the Long Jump World Records, with a list of lengths, names and years. (Irish)
2pp
31. [1935?] - 1944 Reporter notebooks and loose pages with shorthand notes. Includes several long-hand notes, such as, 'Cosgrave at Clifden, June 16th '35', and 'Celtic Conference, Cardiff, September 9, 1935' (1935), and 'Ennis de Valéra', June 6th, '43', and 'Dev at Tulla June 7th, '43', and 'Dev in Galway City June 8th 1943' (1943 General Election campaign), 'Dev at Skibereen 19th June '43' (1943).
6 items / c 700pp
32. [1943?] Mounted black and white full length group photograph of, from left to right, Bairéad, Tom Lavery, John O'Sullivan (*Cork Examiner*), Eamon De Valera with his hands in his jacket pockets, Brendan Malin (*Irish Press*) and Michael [Kearney]. Each man has affixed his signature adjacent to his image. All are dressed in suits and ties, and are standing in front of a high wall covered with bushes on a rough path.
1 item / 265 x 190 mm

⁴ Eamon De Valera (1882-1975) revolutionary, national leader and statesman, Taoiseach 1932-1948, 1951-1954, and 1957-1959 and President 1959-1973.



See also GP2/31

33. [1943?] Black and white group photograph of, from left to right, Brendan Malin, (*Irish Press*), Bairéad, woman (unknown) standing pouring a glass of Power's Irish whiskey, John O'Sullivan (*Cork Examiner*) and Michael V. [Kearney], taken in a public house, all the journalists have raised glasses in their hands, seated around a small table which has several bottles of beer on it. Bairéad and Malin are wearing overcoats.
1 item / 202 x 150 mm
34. 5 October 1943 Postcard from 'J.B.', Independent Newspapers Ltd. to Bairéad advising him that he is on Circuit Criminal Court [reporting] tomorrow.
1 item
35. 19 December 1944 Letter from Fiachra Éilgeach to Bairéad requesting information on the correct form of place names (for bus stops) between Gaillimh and Doire Ruis.
1p
36. 20 September 1945 Letter from Micheal Óg Mac Pháidín (on Dáil Éireann headed notepaper) to Bairéad enclosing a poem (not enclosed) which he would like him to publish in *The Independent*, on Saturday, and refers to the 100th anniversary of the famine (Great Famine 1845-1850). (Irish)
1p
37. 21 August 1959 Letter from The Clare Champion Ltd. to Bairéad regretting that 'owing to internal reorganisation in this Office' it will not require his Irish article after the 30th August, and thanking him for his past contributions.
1p
38. 12 June 1962 Letter from F. F. Faulkner, Deputy Editor, *Irish Press* to Bairéad giving him permission to reprint articles which he contributed to the paper.
1p

**ii. Expenses & Stationery, 1920(?) - 1932**

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|---|-------------|
| 39. | [192-?] | Blank travel ticket request form from the <i>Connacht Tribune</i> , pre-signed by the Managing Editor, to a [Railway] Station Clerk. | 1 item |
| 40. | 9 June 1932 | Receipt from Hotel Furstenhof, Bremen, to Bairéad, for 30.36 marks. | 1 item / 1p |
| 41. | n/d | Invoice from Splendid Hotel et Grand Hotel Suisse, Bruxelles-Nord, to Mr. Smith, London, for four nights accommodation. (Flemish/ French) | 1 item / 1p |
| 42. | n/d | Invoice from Avenue Hotel, Avenue Léopold, 23, Ostende, for four days accommodation amounting to £3-3-5. (Flemish/ French) | 1 item / 1p |
| 43. | n/d | One sheet of The Freeman's Journal (1919) Ltd. headed notepaper. | 1 item |
| 44. | n/d | File of Independent Newspaper Ltd. stationery, includes blank reporting expenses sheets, headed notepaper, Bairéad's business card, and one envelope. | 6 items |



D. Friends and Acquaintances

i. Máirtín Ó Cadhain⁶

(a) Letters from Ó Cadhain to Bairéad, 1939 - 1971 (Irish)

45. 5 April 1939 Postcard advising that he had hoped to call with the three copybooks but he did not succeed. He can get them whenever it suits. He is taking the others home and they will be ready when he returns. 1 item/ 2pp
46. late [1944?] (Cnocán Glas, Spidéal) referring to mutual acquaintances, advising he was delighted to hear that Bairéad's wife is better and hopes to visit before he leaves Dublin. He refers to an article in the *[Connacht] Tribune*, Connemara Notes, and hopes *An Gúm* do not think he had any part in it. He has not seen Liam Ó Briain or Magennis since he came home, and confides that he will be going to Dublin in a fortnight or three weeks to get married; and that Bairéad is the only one he has told about it. 4pp
47. early [1945?] (147 South Circular Road, Rialto, Dublin) inviting him to visit as soon as he can, and writing about their search for new accommodation as their current landlady does not want a married couple. He writes about their success in procuring a good flat only to be refused at the last minute, because, he thinks, the landlord must have found out that he had been in prison. [Ó Cadhain was interned in the Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare 1940-44.] 1p
48. 23 February 1945 - (147 South Circular Road, Rialto, Dublin) inviting him to visit and trying to set a suitable date. He refers to Máire (Bairéad's daughter) winning at the Feis (23 February 1945) and enquires about his wife, who is ill. He also advises he was viewing a house and a flat when Bairéad called and just missed him, and on the other occasion they were at the pictures (cinema). 3 items / 5pp

⁶ Máirtín Ó Cadhain (1907-1970) born in Cnocán Glas (near Moycullan), teacher, republican and Irish language writer. He became a school-teacher, joined the IRA in the 1930's and as a result lost his teaching post. He became the IRA Recruiting Officer in Dublin, and was appointed to the IRA Army Council in 1938, and held in the Curragh Internment Camp between 1940-44. In 1949 he became a translator for the Oisachaires, in 1956 he joined the staff of the Department of Modern Irish at Trinity College Dublin, where he was Professor of Irish. *Idir Shliúgradh agus Déiríne*, his first collection of short stories, was published in 1939, *An Braon Broghnach* in 1948, *Cré na Cille* in 1949, *Cois Caoláire* in 1952, *An tSraith an Lár* in 1967, and in 1970 *An tSraith Dé Togail*.



GP2/18, 50, 64, 74

49. 16 July 1945

(Cnocán Glas, Spidéal) enquiring about his wife and referring to Máirín's [Ó Cadhain's wife] recent telephone conversation with him. He mentions that he was speaking to An Droighneánach, and told him that Bairéad would like to see him. He advises that he has been working on '...ilríú Sheáin Uí Chathasaigh' but is not satisfied with it. He refers to articles he sent to *An Gúm*, which wanted him to make changes but he did not. He also advises that he is thinking of going to Lough Derg.

1 item/ 4pp

50. [1945?]

(Cnocán Glas, Spidéal) writing that the loss of his pen in Lough Derg interfered with his writing, as he cannot write with "na pinn bheaga". He advises that *The Press* is the only newspaper available in the area, and that everyone believes that An Droighneánach sold out, and he feels he will not remain in Spidéal now. He suggests that Bairéad write about how a newspaper is published, as there is nothing available on the topic in Irish, and advises that Seán Ó Briain, a printer with Dollard House, or Peadar Ó Domhnaill from An Cheathrú Rua would contribute.

2 items /4pp

51. July [1945?]

(50 South Circular Road, Portobello, Dublin) regretting that he cannot meet them as he has to go to a meeting in Drogheda, county Louth. He asks Bairéad to explain his absence and hopes they can meet Liam again.

1 item

52. 16 October 1945

(Cnocán Glas, Spidéal) referring to some of his recent work, such as an anonymous letter he sent to the newspaper recently which was not published, and advising that he intends to send some articles to Bairéad, which he might find suitable. He has been correcting *An Braon Broghach* (published 1948) which he got back from *An Gúm*; he is tormented working on the glossary and dictionary, and notes that he is thinking about going to Dublin for the Oireachtas⁸.

1 item 2pp

See also GP2/64-70

53. [1945?]

Enclosing an article (not included) which he would like him to put in the paper "gan beannú". He also refers to "an máistir beag" and writes "níl a chuid Gaelge thar moladh beirte", furthermore he advised he is a Munster man, married to a woman from Spidéal! He also advised that he heard Colm Ó Gaora would be at the Oireachtas. Includes a postscript suggesting the use of the pseudo name, Gráinne Ní Aibhle or An Cathairéoiú.

2pp

⁸ Conradh na Gaeilge founded An tOireachtas, the main Irish festival, in 1887. Almost all aspects of Irish cultural heritage are represented at An tOireachtas - sean-nós singing, solo singing, choirs, traditional music, dancing, storytelling, agallaimh beirte, and Irish literature.



54. [1947?] Asking Bairéad to put in an article (not included) if it suits him. He had two reasons for writing it, the first as it might remind 'lucht an údarás' that he is making improvements on Dinneen⁷ and, the second to urge M Ní Gráda and P. Beasley [Piarás Béaslaí]⁸.
1p
55. [1949?] Relating to his novel *Cré na Cille* (published 1949, and chosen by UNESCO for translation into a number of other European languages), advising he is busy working on corrections and proofs, although "B'fhusa go fada é a scriobadh". Stating that he and people like him are being continuously attacked in the *Irish Press*, and that he met Críostóir, [Críostóir Ó Fioinn/Christoir O'Flynn (1927 - ?), writer, poet and playwright]⁹ who is writing poetry, at a teachers' Convention but did not get a chance to speak to him. He also refers to a play he saw that the Taibhdhearc produced in the Abbey, and that an t-Óránach is a powerful actor. He asks if they have electricity yet and says "...tá an Spidéal anois fearacht Shráid Uí..".
4pp
56. [1949?] Relating to Irish phrases and words, and printing matters. He refers to various questions Bairéad asked about specific words, advising 'An Chré' (*Cré na Cille*) is currently being printed and will be out before Christmas, and that he cannot find his copy of *Éigse*, (newspaper) which has the examples he wants, perhaps it is in Spidéal. He suggests that "Sam sa leabharlainn" [Galway County Librarian, Samuel Maguire] might have it, and he hopes Bairéad and the girls are well.
10pp
57. [1949?] Advising there is no Connacht person in the *Irish Press* now, includes references to Mac Aonghusa, Éamonn Ó Faoláin and Pádraig Óg, and mentions that he heard that Sáirséal agus Dill¹⁰ are publishing a collection of books, including two from An Flaithheartach, whom he met recently, "...ronnach faoina leath-ascaill, leabher nua-cheannaithe Rúiseach faoina ascaille agus é ag dul abhaile". He further advises that as he has given up drinking he is poor company but asks Bairéad to call if he is in Dublin, "...d'ainneoin pledge an Dry Ginger".
6pp

⁷ Rev. Patrick Stephen Dinneen, author of a highly regarded Irish-English Dictionary published in 1934.

⁸ Piarás Béaslaí, (1881-1965) revolutionary, Gaelic scholar and writer.

⁹ Críostóir Ó Fioinn/Christoir O'Flynn (1927 - ?), main work includes the novels *Lá Dá Bhfaca Thú* (1955); and *Leasrair Lios an Phúca* (1965). His short story collections are *Cineachlann* (1968), and *Sanctuary Island* (1971). His drama includes in Dublin's *Fair City* (1959); *Land of the Living* (1962); *Cóta Bán Chríost/The Order of Melchizedek* (1966); *Is É Dúirt Polonious* (1967); *Agglomamento* (1968); *Mise Raiflínt an Fíle* (1973); and *An Spailín Fánach* (1988). His poetry collections include *Ó Fhás go hAois* (1969); *Banana* (1979); *Aisling Dhá Abhainn* (1977); *Hunger Strike* (1984); *A Poet in Rome* (1992); *The Oblisk Year* (1993); and *Saecláidí Van Gogh* (1996).

¹⁰ Founded by Seán Sáirséal in 1945, it was the first private sector publishing house specialising in works in Irish.



58. 2 September 1949 (50 South Circular Road, Portobello, Dublin) returning books, mentioning that Sorcha Ní Ghuairim is the Irish Editor of the *Irish Press*, and that Séamus Ó Grianna has been attacking him in *Comhar* (magazine), he feels his motive is to keep everyone but himself from writing Irish. He refers to Séamus O'Neill, Tomás O hÉineacháin, *An Gúm*, and to his sister, Baba, who died, "Chreidim ó nach raibh i ndán maitheasa di gur maith an mhalaírd di é"; and advises that he gave Peadar O' Flaithearta Bairéad's address, as he wanted to thank him for the book. He also asks if they have got electricity yet, it has reached Spidéal.
12pp
59. 12 January 1952 (Teach Laighean (Leinster House, Dublin)) in which he refers to a move to have *An Gúm* placed under an independent board. He advises they had a meeting with the Department, which promised to give a grant to any publishers who published books in Irish, and further advises that *An Gúm* has difficulty in obtaining manuscripts and asks Bairéad to send them some of his work. He advises he will have the proofs of 'Cois Caoláire' the following week, and that Sáirseal agus Dill have a new printing press, which Bairéad could try.
16pp
60. [1952?] (Dartraí) [Dartry, Co. Dublin] advising he seldom goes to Connemara as some of his family there are not getting on; he writes that he promised the University he would write a pamphlet in English, on Irish, but that now they want it in Irish. He writes about different publishers and says they are all in conflict with one another, perhaps this accounts for Bairéad's manuscripts not being published. *An Gúm* is publishing again and Niall Ó Dónaill is in charge.
6pp

(b) *Letters of Sympathy from Máirtín and Máirin Ó Cadhain to Bairéad, 1951 (Irish)*

61. 24 February 1951
2 April 1951 On the death of his mother and brother. Ó Cadhain also mentions Peadar Ó Doncha (p3, n/d), who is in the National Library now and Seán Mac Maoiláin, who is on pension (p3, n/d), and the death of Bairéad's brother (2 April 1951). Máirin writes that she knows Bairéad was very attached to his mother and refers also to his brother. She mentions poetry she saw in 'Ar Aghaidh' composed by Treasa (Bairéad's daughter) (24 February 1951).

3 items / 8pp



(c) *Cheque issued by Bairéad to Ó Cadhain, 1969*

62. 28 June 1969 Cheque issued by Bairéad to Máirtín Ó Cadhain for £3-3-0
1 item

(d) *File relating to the late Ó Cadhain, 1971*

63. 20 April 1971 Containing a letter from Bernadette Ní Rodaigh (O' Cadhain's sister-in-law) to Bairéad referring to Ó Cadhain's letters from prison and the publishing of the book, together with a joint memorial card for Máirtín Ó Cadhain (+1970) and his wife, Máirín Ní Rodaigh (+1965), and a newspaper acknowledgment on Ó Cadhain's death.
3 items / 7pp



ii. Letters from Colm Ó Gaora¹¹ to Bairéad, 1938 – 1944 (Irish)

See also GP2/45-60

See also GP2/18, 49, 50, 64, 74

64. 24 January 1938 (Rosmuc) referring to his review of Bairéad's book in the Press in November, which he wrote under the pen name 'Beanna Beola'. He also advises he was at the recent funeral of An Máilleach, and met Pádraic Ó Droighneáin (Republican, and member of the Gaelic League and GAA), from Moycullen. He also refers to the Máirtín Ó Cadhain's work for *An Gúm*.
2pp
65. 4 April 1938 Expressing his delight in getting *An Geall a Briseadh* and advising that he is going to write a review of it for the paper if no other appears; he will give the analysts a chance first. He is considering writing on m'Eachtraí again and sending them to *An Gúm*. A postscript refers to his neighbour, Criostóir Mac Aongusa, receiving a prize for 'Beatha Phádraig Uí Chonaire'.
2pp
66. (16 September 1941) In immediate response to Bairéad's letter, advising he wrote the same day 'chuig an bhFear Fada' (De Valera), and encloses the acknowledgement he received from the Taoiseach's Private Secretary (16 September 1941). He refers to Máirtín Ó Cadhain, and he advises that a man who was in prison with him told him that a book he wished to send to *An Gúm* had been intercepted and stopped by the prison Governor, and also that he hopes to see Bairéad at the Conradh na Gaeilge Convention.
2 items /3pp
67. 5 November 1943 Thanking him for his advice and referring to the hospitality shown him on his last visit to Dublin. He also writes that he is thinking about giving up teaching and moving to Dublin. He sends his regards to Bairéad's wife, his sister and all his family.
1p

¹¹ Colm Ó Gaora (1887-1954) born in Rosmuc, Connemara, county Galway, he was a travelling Irish teacher, writer and a member of the IRB and commander of its Conamara branch. He serialised the story 'Scolbglas Mac Rí 'n Éirinn', which he heard from his father in An Claidheam Solais (the Gaelic League paper). As a travelling Irish teacher, mainly in county Mayo, he gathered songs, and published them in 1905 in 'Fíblín'. He knew Pádraic Pearse, Seán Mac Diarmada, Eamon Ceannt, Terence McSweeney and many other republicans. Pearse featured his father in his story *Iosagán* (See GP2/152). MacDiarmada (See GP2/75 & 77) swore him into the IRB and gave him powers to recruit Cumann. He fought during the War of Independence and Civil War and spent long periods on the run. When in prison in 1919 his father was taken ill and he was given temporary compassionate leave to attend his funeral. In 1920 when imprisoned in Galway Gaol, without charge, he and six others went on hungry strike. While in prison he was elected to Galway County Council and elected as Chairman. He was involved in the founding of A Stoc, a monthly Irish language newspaper, and contributed a column 'Cúinne an tSeánóra' until 1921. He spent five years in America where he ran an Irish language school in New York. He wrote under the pseudonym *An Grúagach Bán*. Works included *An Fíblín* (1905), *Obair is Lundhainn nó Saoghal sa nGaedheachtacht*, (1937), *Mise, a bheathaisneis*, (1945) (See GP2/68), and a translation of 'The autobiography of a Super-Tramp' by W.A. David, (1938).



68. 5 February 1944 - 28 July 1944 Asking him if he could get someone in the *Independent* to write a review of 'Mise' in English, and adds that there is no one as good as he would be to write about it in English or Irish (5 February 1944), he also mentions that Seán Ó Cathasaigh told him there were reviews in the *Sunday Independent* and *The Leader* and that it was also mentioned in the *Irish Times*. He advises that "fear na Masterpieces" told him that Liam O'Brian is reading Máirtín's (Ó Cadhain) stories, and also asks for the name of the doctor, his wife mentioned, as he is not feeling well (28 July 1944).
- 3 items, 3pp
68. 31 October 1944 Apologising for not visiting on his last trip but he got a fit of nerves. He asks if Máirtín [Ó Cadhain] has come to an arrangement with *An Gúm* about his stories, and advises that his neighbour's masterpieces were accepted at last. He is looking for two copies of a drama, if it is not too difficult for Bairéad to procure it for him. He refers to the Douglas Hyde Award for the best book published in 1943 and jokingly adds that he expected to get it this year.
- 2pp
70. 12 March 1945 (Rosmuc) asking if his wife is out of hospital and says he has not been well. He heard that Máirtín [Ó Cadhain] got married and asks if he is living in the city. He has not seen 'Fear na undertones' but asks Bairéad if he saw the piece in the *Connacht Tribune* that he wrote about 'Perfect Technique'. He refers to Cumann na Scriobhneoirí (The Writers' Club) and thinks they should give some recognition to Máirtín because of the work he has done for Irish literature.
- 2pp



iii. Letters from Murchadh Ó Dabhorionn (710 Bellavie Avenue,
Pittsburgh, PA 15226, USA) to Bairéad, 1966 – 1973

71. 22 February 1925 Telling him about some people he had met who have emigrated to the America, such as "I think Matty Griffin was out here when I last wrote to you, he is fine and likes it well out here. Bartley O'Donnell (Woodstock) is staying with me" (pp1-2), and "My God is it not awful to think that it is the old game back again, many a fellow I tried to keep from coming out here and see myself out here now. I am sure you hate to see them leaving, I hear that it is an awful bad year in Ireland, it must be there is a curse on the country when it is not war it is bad weather which is not much better" (pp2-3). Reference is also made to the republican movement and the end of *The Freeman's Journal*.

4pp

Original closed until 2026 - censored photocopy available

72. 10 August 1966 Regarding a variety of matters, such as the 1916 Rising, 1919 local elections and recollections of his life in Moycullen and Galway, and his current life. He thanks Bairéad for sending him copies of the (*Connacht Tribune*, though he believes they contain some incorrect information, such as "The Oranmore barracks incident is exaggerated, the most I think was a few shots fired on any enemy outpost during that week. Of course the story about Moycullen was overplayed", and then gives a detailed account of his recollection of the story surrounding the events in the area during Easter Week 1916 and during the Civil War, mentioning comrades, such as Colm O'Gara who "used to tell us some good jokes..." (p6). Includes information on the 1919 local elections, and refers to the Gaelic League and Irish speakers in his youth; and "I want to tell you that I will never grow tired reading anything you will write to me even if you disagree with me on some things" (p7). He tells of his recent attendance at a Feis in Cleveland, a short stay in Chicago where he met many old friends, giving details on who they are married to and where they work, and continues to mention days past, such as at the Galway Races and other sporting events, with friends and family, and his activities in his local parish, and concludes "I have to bring this rigmarole to an end as I am sure you will have a task on your hands to guess most of what I am trying to write" (p1).

14pp

73. 13 February 1969 Thanking him for his book, which he "enjoyed very much", telling that he and others he knows get the "pension" [Old IRA pension], and that he applied for it on the advice of Hughie Hourican from Séan McKeown's Brigade (p2), and referring to former neighbours and friends in Moycullen; "It's well I remember the night (of) Johnneen McDonagh's wedding, I got Tom Lydon and John Kearns, Tooreeny (Moycullen) to join the Sinn Féin Club that night. It was in John's barn loft [that] Conneely and me slept when we first left home" (p1).

4pp



See also GP2/18, 49, 50, 64

74. 28 July 1969

Remembering old friends, using some Irish phrases, and talking of times past, such as a disputed 'tug-of-war' match which later resulted in a fight in Oughterard (pp2-3), "that bringing all those things back to mind make (sic) me feel good" (p3). He laments the passing of Pádraig Ó Droighnéain, "I sure gave Pádraig credit for making a number of us who were active at that time better Irishmen and more informed young men than you could find in many parishes around Galway" (p3), and that Ó Droighnéain "took an active part in the Gaelic League, the GAA, the beginning of the Volunteers, IRB, etc... I always looked upon him as my best friend not alone a good friend but a good teacher as well" (p4). He tells how he loves America but that there is nothing "nearer to me than Érin go Brac with all its faults and shortcoming it is to me the greatest and is closest to my heart. It was too bad that fate made me leave there for as you have said more than once before it was there that I did belong" (p5). He gives credit to Bairéad "for getting Moycullen into the G.A.A. Where I got my got my Baptism of Nationalism with the Gaelic League." He also refers to Fianna Fáil, Jack Lynch¹² and the 1969 election which he will be able to read about in the *Irish World* newspaper. He recalls canvassing in the 1918 election and "...trying to arrange for transportation and how illiterates could vote for our candidate" (p6), he also congratulates Bairéad on the success of his books.

8pp

75. 29 September 1971

Regarding a variety of matters, such as evoking times past with friends and acquaintances who have passed away, going to the Irish Centre to hear "O'Hehir's wonderful broadcast" (p2) of a GAA match, advising that the United Ireland Committee is "pretty active" here and sent "\$800 to Seán O'Siocháin, GAA Secretary for relief in the Six Counties (Northern Ireland)" (p3), and in reply to Bairéad's question on which he would support, the Provisional or Official IRA, states that "...even with the information you send me I am still very much in the dark and therefore could not give you a direct answer. I will say that the IRA have made the 6 county question better known in this country than it ever was before and of course I still believe that Ireland never got anything from England except where force was used, oh we got some concessions but I still remember the great Seán McDermot's remark, "D__m your concessions give us our country..." (p3). He also advises that he received an invitation to the 50th anniversary commemoration of the 11th July 1921 Truce which was to be held in the Mansion House, and remembers his attendance at an IRA Convention on 25th June 1922, "...and the Four Courts was attacked on Wednesday morning June 28th. Ancient history" (p4). He further writes that "I could not understand your embarrassment about the Radio talks on Irish books?" (p4).

4pp

76. 14 December 1971

Referring to former neighbours and friends, and his wife's recent fall, "...her leg is in traction and will be for 6 weeks" (p2), and his own health, "I am not much any more. I have gone down hill a good bit for the last couple of years when I sit down I hate to get up, my appetite is not very good" (p3).

4pp

¹² Jack Lynch, (1917-1999,) Fianna Fáil TD, and Taoiseach 1968-1973



GP2/11, Pádraic Ó'Conaire and his wife,
Molly MacManus (undated)



GP2/12, Eibhlín Ní Mheara Bairéad, Bairéad's wife,
circa 1930s



77. 12 July 1972 Apologises for the slowness of his reply, and writes about his health, family, neighbours, and friends, such as "I have gone down very much in the last year or more" (p1), and reminiscing about times past, asking if it was true that Mick Coyne and Pádraig Ó Droighneáin took the I.R.B. oath from Seán Mac Diarmada¹³. He mentions the Gaelic League, the "rebellion" and their old Sinn Féin club (p2), and tells that "Half my world passed away when Mattie Griffin died" (p3), and "I don't like to talk about the Northern trouble, it is heartbreaking. I did not have much confidence in this last truce....it must be hell upon earth up there now" (p6).
6pp
78. 14 December 1972 Referring to his age and health, and to friends, some who have died, and remembering how he, P. Ó Droighneáin and John Geoghan canvassed for the 1918 general election, and "you know that every man and woman in Killagoola [Slieveaneena, Moycullen, Co. Galway] voted for P. O Maile on election day" (p3). He refers to reports of the G.A.A. games in *The Irish World* and *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*, and writes "You know Mattie Griffin's passing put a terrible gap in my life. I used to see him every where I could go and he drove a car and used to visit quite often and bring Matt Clancy and Lillie with them..." (pp5-6).
6pp
79. 8 June 1973 Reminiscing about Ireland, mutual friends and acquaintances, many of whom had passed away, and writes that "when Mattie Griffin passed away a lot of Ireland passed on for me. There is nobody in Pgh [Pittsburgh] that knows anything about the Ireland that I knew" (p3), and recalling "I will never forget one day we were marching in Galway and as you know Galway city never gave our kind very much of a reception but I happened to hear some cheering from the sidewalk ..." (p5), and "I do not go anywhere anymore nor do I feel like going. Well, you said in your letter that I would be tired of ramish, it will be ditto." (p6)
6pp
80. n/d Christmas card and a Spiritual Bouquet.
2 items

¹³ Seán Mac Diarmada (1884-1916), revolutionary, fought in the GPO during the Easter Rising, member of the Provisional Government of the Irish Republic, and executed on 12 May 1916.

**iv. Letters from Tomás Ó Raghallaigh¹⁴ to Bairéad, 1922 – 1942 (Irish)**

See also GP2/99, 139-140

81. 15 June 1922 (Upper Gardiner Street, Dublin) With general news, advising that he has been very busy since coming to Dublin, he saw Bairéad's sister twice since his arrival, and writes that he considers it odd that there are people from Uachtar Árd, an Dúin and Neamhclilla teaching in Dublin, naming Pádraig Ó Domhnalláin¹⁵, and Seán Mac h-Uigin. 1p
82. 14 October 1922 Advising that he will be moving to Dublin as he was offered a job in Scoileanna Somplacha Cheartláir Átha Cliath, and that he heard that Séamus Ó Murchadha is teaching in Belvedere College (Dublin). He is busy trying to compile a book and suggests that maybe Bairéad will help him. 2pp
83. 25 August 1927 (An Grianán, Gaillimh) Relating to the cost of 'Sgoil Ghaedhilge', and the quantity of errors in it. He also says An tAthair Ó hEidhin [Professor Hynes of UCG] has asked him to bring Bairéad to see him when he comes to Galway, as when they previously met in Beannchor, he never heard such an Irish speaker, and he also asks Bairéad "...cén sórt carraigreacha Gaedhilge a chaith tú leis thall i mBeannchor." 2pp
84. 13 May 1929 (An Grianán, Barr a' Chalia, Gaillimh) Requesting information about Belgium and advice on accommodation in Brussels. 1p

¹⁴ Tomás Ó Raghallaigh (1883–1966) born near Moycullen, county Galway, Irish language writer and translator. Educated at St. Joseph's School in Galway and received a scholarship to St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin. He was a travelling teacher for Conradh Gaeilge in county Mayo, and was involved in the founding of the Achill school. He was a teacher in Tourmakeady, county Mayo and in Colaiste Chonnacht in Spidéal, county Galway. He was an organiser for the Gaelic League in the early 20th century, and later Professor of Irish at UCG, editor, with Tomás Ó Máille of *Slóc*, the Irish monthly paper, also a member of the 1st committee of *Taidhbhearc na Gaillimhe* in 1927. Works included *An Sgoil Gaeilge*, 1927, *Eachdhoun an Áir*, (a drama), *Bruth-Fá-Thir* with Pádraig Ó Domhnalláin, Dublin.

¹⁵ Pádraig Ó Domhnalláin (1884 - ?), born in Oughterard, county Galway, Irish language writer and translator. He was an organiser for the Gaelic League in the 20th century, helped Pádraig Pearse during his periods of residence in Rosmuc, county Galway to collect local poems and songs, wrote short stories in collaboration with Tomás Ó Raghallaigh under the title, *Bruth-Fá-Thir*. Works included *Conamara*, 1928, *Sgéalta Eorpacha*, 1927, *An tIolach Mór: díoghlum gear-scóla*, 1940.



85. 31 December 1930
3 January 1931
Regarding Duinta Eoghan Ruaidh Mic an Bháird, advising that the publishers and the Cló Romhánach have messed up, and that Eoghan Ó Neachtain (Irish language writer) sent an analysis of the book to the *Independent* but it has not been published, so asks Bairéad to bring it to the attention of the Irish correspondent (31 December 1930), and also writes that he is pleased Bairéad is writing and he asks him to write something for Coisde Feise Chonnacht (3 January 1931).
2 items, 2pp
86. 9 January 1931
(Coláiste na h-Iolscoile, Gaillimh headed paper) Suggesting the use of the word "bhorm" for "worm", and referring to Stoc, and Eoghan Ó N[éill], and a book he is putting an appendix to at present. Includes envelope.
2 items, 1p
87. 11 February 1931
Referring to receiving his story, which he has not finished reading yet, and advising that An Máilleach is very busy and might mislay it. He writes that he saw a poem on 'poitín' and if he finds it again he will send it to him, since he mentions poitín in his story, and that a young fellow from Leitir Móir na Coille told him he had heard the word "péisit" used for "worm". A postscript notes that Liam Ó Buachalla has left Stoc.
1p
88. 5 March 1931
(Coláiste na hIolscoile, Gaillimh) Advising that he had been so busy that he did not have the opportunity to read the story through until the previous night, and refers to the programme for the Feis, which can be requested from the Secretary, Síle Ní Chinnéide [Professor of History], at University College Galway.
1p
89. 26 September 1934
With seven points regarding the use of phrases and grammatical suggestions, which he hopes will ease Bairéad's mind.
2pp
90. 14 January 1935
Requesting details on the book on drama he had received from Sears, such as the price and publishers. A postscript asks if it was he who had the article 'An Craobh Chumhra' in the *Independent*.
1p



91. 23 January 1935 Thanking him for the information about the book, and advising that Dr O'Murchadha, who has written a few dramas in English, has asked him to translate them into Irish. He also advises that he shares his opinion regarding 'Craobh Cumhra', and asks Bairéad to send some short stories to Sceim Roinn an Oideachais.
2pp
92. 2 May 1937 Thanking him for *Cumhacht na Cinneamhna* and enclosing a piece from the [*Connacht*] *Tribune* (newspaper) about it.
1 item
93. 31 March 1938 Advising he received his letter at the Gresham (Hotel, Dublin) but it was too late to meet, and he is very grateful for a copy of *An Geall a Briseadh*, but has only had time to read a little of it.
1p
94. 13 September 1938 Advising that he will be in Dublin the following month and hopes they can meet.
1p
95. 12 November 1939 Advising that he will be in the Standard, Harcourt Street, Dublin on the following Thursday and hopes they can meet. He also advises that *An Geall a Briseadh* is on the syllabus for Matric, 1940.
1p
96. 14 December 1942 Enclosing the criticisms (not included), and advising there was a big crowd in the Taibhdhearc for the Feis Cheoil.
1p



v. Letters from Seósamh Daibhéid (Brooklyn, New York)
to Bairéad, 1938 – 1947 (Irish)

97. 16 March 1938 Referring to *Cumhacht na Cinneamhna*, advising that he teaches Cumann na Gaeilge classes in New York, and had been searching for a suitable book, "a bhfuil an sméar mhullaigh de Ghaedhíle Chonnacht ann", and has found it in *Cumhacht na Cinneamhna*. He writes that he works in *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, which is why perhaps he particularly liked the stories 'An Stiléara' and 'An Reilig', and offers to send any papers or journals Bairéad would be interested in from New York. A postscript advises that as he does not have Bairéad's address he is sending the letter via Micheál Ó Maoláin from Aran. 3pp
98. 16 May 1938 Thanking him for sending *An Geall a Briseadh*, but that although he enjoyed it immensely he felt it is not as good as his first book. He was delighted to hear about the work Máirtín Ó Cadhain is doing for Irish. He can think of no one except Tomás Ó Máille (RIP) who is as capable. A postscript states that he is very interested in Connemara writers and would be delighted for anything relating to them. 2pp
- See also GP2/81-96
99. 28 September 1938 Referring to *Cumhacht na Cinneamhna* and advising he ordered 20 copies from Siopa na nDéantús nGeadhealach in New York. He writes that he asked the shop owner to tell the Government Publications Office that he would prefer the 2nd edition, as the author was making corrections to it, and includes a transcript of their reply, and that he was reading through some old copies of 'Stoc' and saw that Bairéad won first prize at Feis Connacht for 'Tuireadh Eachdhroma'. He hopes Tomás Ó Raghallaigh will complete the work on Irish grammar begun by T Ó'Máille. 4pp
100. 1947 Enclosing a syllabus for Cumann na Gaedhíle classes. He refers to 'Coisde na bPáisde' which he has been working for, and advises that many Irish, in New York, have fundraised, and the money has been sent to the party in Ulster and the Six Counties (Northern Ireland). A postscript refers to Máirtín Ó Cadhain. 2 items

**vi. Letters from Micheál Ó Donnabháin¹⁶ to Bairéad, c 1941**

101. [1941?] (Lynduff, Woodenbridge, Co. Wicklow) Referring to an article R. Ó Farachúir had written in *'An Chluig'* on Bairéad's work, and writing that although Ó Farachúir and he do not get on, the former respects Bairéad's writing. He thinks Bairéad's story about travellers is his best story yet, but points out that they do not travel in winter. He thanks Bairéad for the book and advises that he particularly liked the story 'An Ghias-Shnaidhm', and that 'An Triú Bean' is an old story, there are a lot of that type and he advises "...caithfidh tú bheith aireach mar gheall orthu" (in the typed letter). 2 items/ 4pp
- 102(a) n/d (Trenton, Ballsbridge, Dublin) Relating to his search, in vain, for the page or pages that are missing from the story, and advising Bairéad to take a break from work and devote himself to writing. 1p

vii. Photocopy of Letter from Éamon De Valera, Department of the Taoiseach, to Bairéad, 1944 (Irish)

- 102(b) 26 July 1944 Thanking him for his letter, and hoping 'le Dia' that his friend continues dutifully with the work on behalf of the Irish language. 1p

¹⁶ Frank O'Connor (1903-1966) (pseudonym name of Michael O'Donovan), novelist, short story writer and teacher. Born and educated in Cork where he became a Librarian. He was a member of the IRA and fought in the War of Independence, and Civil War on the anti-treaty side. During the 1920's and 1930's he sat on the Board of Directors of the Abbey Theatre, Dublin. He taught in the United States at Harvard, Northwestern and Stanford, and in Ireland in Trinity College Dublin, which awarded him a D.Litt in 1962. Works include *The Saint and Mary Kate*, (Macmillan, London 1932) and *Dutch Interior* (Macmillan, London 1940), *Guests of the Nation* (Macmillan, London 1931), *Bones of Contention* (1936), *The Common Cord* (1947), *The Stories of Frank O'Connor*, (1952), *My Oedipus Complex and other Stories* (1963), his volumes of autobiography are *An Only Child* (1961), and *My Father's Son* (1968). He also wrote a biography of Michael Collins titled *The Big Fellow* in 1937, and a literary history of 18th century Ireland *The Backward Look* (1967).

**viii. Letters from M Ó Droighneáin to Bairéad, 1950 – 1963 (Irish)**

103. 16 April 1950 (Na Forbacha, Gaillimh) Transcribing the IRB (Irish Republican Brotherhood) oath and advising that he does not remember exactly the oath taken to release people from the Society, as he never had occasion to use it. The Oath reads 'Mionniushim agus móidhim le Dia Uile-Chumhachlach go ndearnfa mé mo chroide dhicill lé Éire a Shaoradh ó smacht na nGall, go mbeidh mé sílir do phrlomh riaghlacha an Chumainn, go nglacfaid comhairle Bun Riaghachair Chumann Saoria na h-Éireann, agus nach scerifeadh rún as bith a bhaintear leis, agus go neartuighid Dia mé chuige sin'¹⁷.
2pp
104. 12 November 1963 Advising he was adjudicating at the Feis Cheoil in Galway and forgot to take the enclosed piece of writing with him (not included). He asks Bairéad if he thinks it would be right to print the information and to mention names, as many of these people's relations are still alive.
1p

**ix. Letters from Proinsias Ó hEidhin (Frank Hynes),
to Bairéad c 1968 – 1969 (Irish)**

105. 19 December [1968?] Relating to family matters and explaining that he will not be home for Christmas as his daughter-in-law is very lonely following the death of his son, aged 41 years, and is now left with five children. He expresses the hope that Bairéad book is progressing well and writes that he enjoyed his other books.
2pp
106. [1969?] Congratulating him on his work on the history of the 1916 Rising in Galway, advising that he was not in America with Liam MacCosa, and although he often spoke about his work there MacCosa had never mentioned Sheridan. He remembers the meeting in 1915 and the people of that time, and advises that MacCosa, Ailbhe Ó Muneacháin and he were in a stable and were not permitted out after Easter week.
1p

¹⁷ Rough translation, 'I swear to God all powerful that I will do my utmost to free Ireland from the control of the English, that I will be true to the principal rules of the Society, that I will accept the advice of the Founding Government of the Society for Irish Freedom and that I will not reveal any secrets and may God strengthen me in that'.

**x. File Relating to Proinsias Ó hEidhin, 1970**

107. April 1970 Proinsias Ó hEidhin: File containing letter from Fr Frank Hynes, O.M.I (Cross Street, Athenry, Co. Galway), to Bairéad, thanking him for his letter of sympathy on the death of his father, Proinsias Ó hEidhin (Captain of the Old I.R.A.), and advising that his father "had been ill since October but survived two bad bouts pneumonia due to my sister Una's loving care and attention" (p1), and that "He died as he had lived with great dignity, in peace and resignation. I am certain that he is now enjoying a well earned reward in heaven (p3). Also includes an appreciation card, and newspaper article referring to the death of Captain Frank Hynes, Cross Street, Athenry, aged 85 years of age, giving a brief account of his life, his involvement in the Irish Volunteers and the 1916 Rising, "Having joined the Volunteers as a young man he helped Liam Mellows¹⁸ to organise and train the Galway Volunteers for the 1916 Rising", "He wrote poems in Irish and English and he wrote plays...". Reporting that his funeral was attended by a large crowd "...with a firing square from Dún Uí Mhaoliosa", with mass concelebrated by his sons, Fr Francis and Fr Terry, O.M.I.

6pp / 6 items

xi. Covering Letter from Pádraig Ó Fathaigh (Árd Rathain, Gaillimh), to Bairéad, 1963 (Irish)

108. 14 October 1963 Enclosing notes and a lament composed by Reachtaire (not included). He refers to Muintir Uí Catháin, Uí Sheachnaisigh and Ó hEidhín, and writes that Liam Mellows spent ten days at O'Shaughnessy's house when he was on the run after Easter week. He lists different events that indicate that Connacht was not asleep, as some people think, during that period, and writes that they had a fine time in Tourmakeady (county Mayo) with the Irish Volunteers in 1907, advising that Colm O'Gaora was in charge and Máirtín O'Brain was Captain. He concludes wishing Bairéad well with his book.

2pp

xii. Letter from Bairéad to Joe, 1966

109. 2 December 1966 Requesting permission to use "...your name and some of your activities in the fight for freedom" in the book of reminiscences which may 'never see "the light of day"'. An annotation notes that he visited the GPO, Galway and saw Joe on 6th December 1966.

1p

¹⁸ Liam Mellows (1892-1922), IRA Executive Member, commander of the republican forces in Galway during the 1916 Rising and War of Independence.

**E. Letters to Bairéad Relating to Publishing Matters, 1925 - 1967**

110. 1 April 1925 Covering letter from Tomás Ó Máille (Coláiste na hOiscolle, Gaillimh) to Bairéad returning a draft with corrections (not included) which he liked, advising that 'Caoinéadh Eachdhroma' has been done already so suggests using "tuireadh" or "marbhnadh", and further advises that Stoc needs material, and suggests that perhaps some Connacht writers and others in Dublin could contribute. (Irish)
1 item
111. 29 February 1928 From Tomás Ó Máille (Coláiste na hOiscolle) advising that he has made some corrections in the story but feels it is too long to be published in Stoc. He comments that the Irish is excellent but faults it because it is all dialogue. A postscript asks if he could put a short account about 'Stoc' in the *Independent* [newspaper]. (Irish)
2pp
112. 6 March 1936 - 24 September 1936 From Ó Máille relating to grammatical points and queries raised by Bairéad, and advising that his own book is nearly ready and hopes that it will receive good reviews (6 March 1936, from Coláiste na hOiscolle). (Irish)
2 items / 4pp
113. 11 November 1939 From Cormac Ó Cadhlaigh (on Coláiste Oiscolle, Baile Átha Cliath headed paper), enclosing a manuscript (not included) that Colm Ó Lochlainn (publisher and founder of the Three Candles Press) gave him to read. He advises Bairéad not to include the story 'Roghain an Dá Ruasgail' as it would not appeal to "lucht na Gaelige", and that he does not like it himself. He suggests changes in some of the phrases and words in the text, identifying chapter and page numbers. (Irish)
6pp
114. 3 March 1941 From Tomás (1 Sráid Húim) to Bairéad enclosing a short story (not included) stating that as a short story it is good but the subject matter could lead to argument. He suggests changes to some words and phrases, identifying the page numbers in the story to which he refers. (Irish)
2pp
115. n/d Covering note from Tomás [O'Raghallaigh], [*An Gúm*] returning a letter (not included) which Bairéad had requested him to review, advising that he feels it might help the writer if Bairéad wrote to him. He also hopes the time will come when they hear from him again in *An Gúm*. (Irish)
1p



115. 20 October 1941 From Liam Ó Buachalla enclosing for proof reading the copy of a story and poem (not included) that are on the programme for 'Éire' (magazine). (Irish)
1p
117. 29 January 1952 From Tomás, *An Gúm* (Sráid Húim) relating to the Department of Education's decision to include of *An Geall a Briseadh* on the school syllabus for 1953-'54, and advising that it must be reprinted as the Secretary has decided "an Litriú nua a chur i bhfeidhm air" (to use the new form of typescript), and advising that Bairéad will only have to read the proof. (Irish)
2pp
118. 23 May 1952 From Seán Tóibín (Fearann Phiarais, Corcaigh) referring to the letters he sent him and other things (not included) which might be of interest to him. A postscript offers to look at the manuscript, before it is printed, for him. (Irish)
1p
119. 30 October 1950 From the Publications Branch of the Department of Education referring to the agreement with the Department for the publishing rights to *Cumhacht na Cinnéamhna*, dated 9th May 1935, and *Geall a Briseadh*, dated 7th January 1937, advising that effective from the 1st October 1950, Bairéad is free to publish these works, provided they are published in Irish.
(Irish)
2p
120. 10 February 1956 From Colm O'Lochlainn, Director, The Sign of The Three Candles Ltd., (9-10 Fleet Street, Dublin) (publishing company) apologizing for the delay in dealing with his stories and advising they are currently unable to publish them, as "...there is not really enough to make a book of any more than fifty or sixty pages" and the trend is for longer books, and they also have backlog of work to deal with. A postscript (in Irish) advises they are hoping they may be able to compile the book on animals accompanied by pictures at a later date. (English, with notes in Irish)
1p
121. October 1965 From the Secretary of Sáirséal agus Dill, enclosing booklet entitled *Tacalocht do Sháirséal agus Dill*, advising that that they will not be able to continue publishing if they do not get support. The booklet, written in Irish and English, details the history and achievements of the Company, and includes transcripts of letters of thanks and praise from writers whose work it published, such as, "Ní mór ná gur maith liom féin mo chuid dánta féin anois, tá crot chomh deas orthu." (Seán Ó Ríordáin, p22). (Irish)
2 items



122. 28 October 1966 From Donnchadh Ó Súilleabháin, An tOireachtais advising of Clódhanna Teoranta Foilseoireachta Chonradh na Gaelge's interest in publishing *Gan Baiste*, and including the Judge's (Eoghan Ó hAnluain) comments which stated that it was the most interesting composition in the Oireachtas competition, but points out that there is no unity and half the events could be left out, however, historically the book is interesting but its finest trait is "an chaint thíriúil nádúrtha." (Irish)

2 items

123. 13 December 1966 - 16 February 1967 From Dónall Ó'Móráin, (Professor of History, UCG) Cló Morainn, Dublin (printing company) (13 December 1966) relating to the return of his collections of short stories, advising that he had returned them, one to Máire and the other to Professor MacNíocail (Professor of History, UCG).

2pp

See also GP2/145 (rough draft of Boladh na hAnbhruithe)

124. 13 January 1967 - 10 February 1967 Correspondence between Seán Mac Maoláin (Secretary of the Publishing Branch, Dept. of Education) and Bairéad relating to short-stories which might be used by the Department on the school curriculum. Bairéad advises that he would be surprised if 'Cáit A' Mhéanoiche' was included on the school's programme as the Department had not previously accepted some of the stories (17 January 1967), and also thanking the Department for permitting him unconditional use of his short story, 'Boladh an Anraithe' (10 February 1967). (Irish and English)

3 items



F. Reviews and Articles, 1938 - 1973

See also GP2/11

125. November 1937 File of newspaper reviews of *Cumhacht na Cinneamhna*, containing reviews from local and national newspapers, in both Irish and English, all commending his ability as a short story and Irish language writer. Reference is made to similarities between Pádraig Ó Conaire and Bairéad, for instance stating "Comparison of his stories with those of O Conaire should prove interesting; but critics will, I think, search in vain for any influence of the elder writer on the younger... But although the whole method of telling is instinctively Irish, it is still modern." (*Connacht Tribune*). Another states that "While the language is rich, idiomatic and adequate, the stories themselves could well be the authentic work of a novelist in any language," and that being a journalist Bairéad "...has utilized effectively his power of comprehension, as well as his opportunities for observation and expression" in the collection (*The Irish Times*), and another states "... tá an nua agus an sean file le chéile go cliste ins na scéalta seo" (*The Standard*). Includes an annotated with 'Review of *Cumhacht na Cinneamhna*'. (*Irish Times & Connacht Tribune* in English *The Standard*, *Irish Press* and *Irish Independent* in Irish)
- 7 items
126. 9 April 1938 *Connacht Tribune* newspaper article on Connacht writers and 'An Béal Beo' by Tomás Ó Máille, which also refers to Bairéad's two short story books (*An Geall a Briseadh* and *Cumhacht na Cinneamhna*), stating that although a few stories in 'Cumhacht na Cinneamhna may be "slightly better" than the second volume, "...the originality, technique and language are remarkable, while refreshing variety suggests that the author is equally at home in town and country."
- 1 item
127. 12 April 1938 Newspaper reviews of *An Geall a Briseadh*, which also refer to Bairéad's first short story collection, *Cumhacht na Cinneamhna*, and states that he "is undoubtedly a discovery and a decided addition to the ranks of Gaelic writers" and that it is probably his profession as a journalist which accounts for his "...relatively greater success in stories that require to be treated objectively. When he comes to deal with human beings he is not quite so happy; he will have to learn to make his stories evolve out of his characters and not to treat them as mere puppets. But he has imagination and a fertile inventiveness" (*New Gaelic Author*). (1 in Irish, 2 in English)
- 3 items
128. 26 August 1938 *Irish Press* newspaper review entitled 'Gearr-Scéalaidhe Ábalta', by P. B. [Piarás Béasall] of *An Geall a Briseadh* stating that the thirteen stories are similar to those in Bairéad's previous book but "...cad chuige nach ndéarnadh an dá imleabhar sin ar aon dul maidir le crot, ceangal agus araille." 'Sionnach Ghleann na Sidhe' is given particular mention, stating that if other stories of the same excellent standard are written "...ní bheidh aon bhaoghal feasta ag nua-litridheacht na Gaedhilge." (Irish)
- 1 item



129. [1938?] *'Irish Monthly'* journal's book review by León Ó Broin (writer, historian and broadcaster, +1990) of *An Geall a Briseadh*, stating that Bairéad "...has an eye for a situation and the power to describe it aptly, having at his command a rich racy vocabulary of Galway Irish which he uses to excellent effect", and that the animal stories, 'Sé Dia a Rathuigheann' and 'Sionnach Ghleann na Sidhe', are "...quite outstanding in that particular genre and lift their author to the first rank."
1 item
130. [1938?] Newspaper report on Leon Ó Broin's radio programme which reviewed *An Geall a Briseadh* and praised *Cumhacht na Cinneamhna*. Reporting that "Mr Barrett's new book is just as good - we hesitate to use the word "better", although there are people who say it is, for having read and re-read the other, and with the grand idiomatic Connacht Irish still chiming in our ears, we ourselves think it could not be surpassed; but, in a word, having derived equal enjoyment and enlivenment from both, we say they are equally excellent".
1 item
131. February 1939 Newspaper report advising that *An Geall a Briseadh* has been placed on the syllabus for primary exams in the University, but emphasising that the collection should not be regarded only as a school book. (Irish)
1 item
132. 17 August 1940 -
20 August 1940 File of newspaper reviews of 'Cruithneacht agus Ceannabháin', stating it will be classed as "...the best which An Bairéadach has yet produced" (Irish Times), and that An Bairéadach sometimes reminds him of An Píarsach, "...ach amháin go bhfuil saidhbhreas focal agus cainnte ag An mBairéadach nach raibh ag an bPíarsach" (G. Mac E, *Irish Independent*), however another is critical of the collection, except for the story 'Boladh an Anbhruithe' (P.B. [Piaráis Béasall, *Irish Press*]). (*Irish Times* in English, other two in Irish. The review by P.B. is difficult to decipher due to its poor condition.)
3 items
133. 31 July 1940 Newspaper review of 'Cruithneacht agus Ceannabháin', giving a synopsis of the story 'Boladh an Anbhruithe', and advising that "Everyone who can read Irish should spare 4/6 for "Cruithneacht agus Ceannabháin". Includes annotation giving the journalist's name (Seán Ó Fioinn), address, and date.
1 item
134. n/d *Irish Press* newspaper clipping of a 'Letter to the Editor' which refers to Bairéad, stating that "We cannot hope for a substantial literature in Irish unless it becomes a living language."
1 item



135. 27 January 1942 Newspaper review of the Irish magazine 'Éire', "...a cultural publication that surveys in the Irish language...", stating that in the current issue Bairéad's short story 'Súgh An tSeahail' illustrates that "...modern Irish literature has a short story writer of the highest talent. The same author shows both feeling and mastery of Gaelic verse modes in the poem, 'VII Romani'¹⁹.
1 item
136. 26 November 1956 - December 1957 Newspaper clippings of transcripts of the poem 'An tSiorraidheacht', with one stating that the poet was a Galwayman (Gaillmheach), and the other from 'Scéala Éireann' (26 November 1956), includes an annotation referring to the other transcript as being the correct version of the poem.
2 items
137. 20 March 1970 - 3 April 1970 Newspaper clippings of letters to the Editor published in *Inniu*, in response to an article by Peadar Mac Uidhir published in one of the paper's previous issues (27 February 1970) relating to *An Geall a Briseadh*. One writer (Summerhill College, Sligo) felt that Mac Uidhir, who is from Dublin, did not understand the stories, as all the stories, except one, were situated in the country (20th March 1970). The Editor, in response to a letter from William Gavin (Solicitor, Galway), apologises to Bairéad, stating that the opinions expressed in Gavin's letter, of 19th March, were not those of the Editor or the editorial staff (*Inniu*, 3rd April 1970). (Irish)
2 items
138. [197-?] Articles which make passing reference to Bairéad. One, entitled 'Pioneer in Tourism' relating to the Connacht Tribune Ltd., mentions that he was a member of staff in the 1920s. The newspaper article entitled 'An Beoheanga I?' by Seán Ó Riordáin (1973), written in response to an article by Liam Ó Réagáin, which compared Irish writers to Latin ones in the middle ages, refers to two books by Bairéad, recently published by Sáirséal agus Dill, *Gan Baisteadh and Dán* and says, "...ní fhéadfaínn Gaeilge níos saibhre, níos áille, ná a Ghaeilge súd a shamhlú." The third article by Douglas Sealy, titled 'Old and New', refers to Bairéad and other writers in the 1940s. (Irish)
3 items
- See also GP2/81-96
139. 21 March 1973 Letter from Pádraic O'Raghallaigh, RTE to Bairéad, introducing himself as Tomás Ó Raghallaigh's son, and with a proposal to do a programme on his life and work, and suggesting they could tape it in his home, if he wished. (Irish)
1p

¹⁹ 'VII Romani' is the inscription found at Teampall Brechan, Arainn on an Early Christian monument.



140. 7 May 1971 Newspaper article referring to a radio programme, 'Dúitse na hÚdair', in which the work of Bairéad will be discussed by Aodh Mac Dubháin. Also includes an account of Bairéad's life and work (RTE Guide). (Irish)
1 item
141. 28 March 1973 Letter from O'Raghallaigh, RTE, to Bairéad hoping he will change his mind about doing the programme on his life and work, and suggesting it could be done in the form of a dialogue, "ar lic an teallaigh", so that Bairéad would not need to travel. (Irish)
2pp
142. 21 September 1973 Newspaper article (in *Inniu*) by Críostóir Mac Aonghusa discussing Bairéad's life as outlined in *Gan Baisteadh*. "Is mór an léar nithe atá i dtrácht sa leabhar ag Tomás, a mhuintir féin le linn a óige, a chuid oibre ar an bhfeirm, a chuid oibre mar iriseoir, thiar i nGaillimh agus thoir i mBaile Átha Cliath, a shaothar mar óglach." Includes reference to various instances referred to in the book such as when De Valera on founding Fianna Fáil asked Bairéad's opinion about the name and the announcement on the founding of the party, which was printed first in *The Independent*. It concludes "Is leabhar é seo d'óg agus d'aosta. Is minic daoine ag clamhsán faoi leabhair Ghaeilge. Is minic daoine á léamh. Níl an leithscéal sin i géas an leabhair seo. Is leabhar é a scriobh fear a bhfuil cleachtadh aige ar scriobh, fear a bhfuil an tír siúta aige agus a bhfuil fios a cheairde aige." Includes a formal photograph of Bairéad (upper body) and an informal one of Máirín Ní Rodaigh and Máirtín Ó Cadhain, standing behind a stone wall. (Irish)
1 item
143. 20 October 1973 *Irish Times* newspaper article by Seán Ó Ríordáin entitled 'Campa Geibhinn', in which he refers to Máirtín Ó Cadhain and Bairéad, stating of the latter "...tá leagan amach Gaeltachta agus Galltachta pósta ina shaothar agus ag faire ar a chéile ar eagla na caothaireachta. Bíonn sé ar shíorfhairte chun ná cuirfí an dubh ina gheall air - ar chuma scoláire." Specific mention is made to the book of letters from Máirtín Ó Cadhain, written while in the Curragh [prison] to Bairéad, which is about to be published. In one Ó Cadhain wrote that Bairéad reminded him of Socrates, "Ba dóigh leat araon go rabhadar riamh ann agus go mbéidh go bráth." (Irish) Outsize
1p
144. [1973?] Newspaper review by Leo Daly of *Gan Baisteadh*, refers to the many honours conferred on Bairéad, stating that the book could be regarded as an autobiography, but "...as the author says it is rather a series of impressions without continuity. Each of the thirty three chapters has a story to tell, and the progression is of time; but there is also the unmistakable development of the story of his journey through life". Particular reference is made to several of the stories, such as 'Cogadh na gCarad', the war of friends (the Civil War), and 'Cathair gan Corkscrew', which is described as being worthy of 'Joyce, or maybe more so, Beckett'.
1 item



G. Material Relating to Literary Awards, 1931 - 1951

145. 14 November 1931 Letter from the Secretary, C. Gifford Wilson of Tailteann Games 1 Lower Ormond Quay, Dublin C.9.) to Bairéad (3 Beechmount Villas) notifying him that he has been awarded Second Prize in Class 4, Irish, Short Story for his entry 'Ruaidhri Ruadh, an Stiéara', in the Tailteann Literary Competitions, and enclosing a list of all the awards in the competitions. 3pp
146. 31 August 1938 - 29 June 1939 Letters from the Irish Academy of Letters (Abbey Theatre, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin) to Bairéad relating to the awarding of O'Growney Award. The Secretary, Lennox Robinson, informs him that the 1937 award of £50, has been given to him for *Cumhacht na Cinneamhna* (31 August 1938), and F. R. Higgins apologises for the delay in forwarding the cheque (29th June 1939). 2 items
147. 1938 Newspaper articles relating to the awarding by the Irish Academy of Letters of the O'Growney Award to Bairéad for his novel *Cumhacht na Cinneamhna*, stating that "...of the scores, or possibly hundreds of books published by *An Gúm* this is the first, I believe, to be given the coveted O'Growney award. I have heard it said that it is one of the few creative works in Irish that can hold its own against similar works in English and Continental languages." (*Connacht Tribune*, Special Correspondent). 2 items
148. 1938 Newspaper report advising on the granting of the Douglas Hyde Literary Award (Ciste Chraoibhin Aoibhin) for the best original work in the Irish language to Bairéad for *An Geall a Briseadh*, stating that it is a "...collection of short stories and sketches dealing mainly with scenes and events familiar to the writer in his native countryside. These are related in Irish of the purest quality as spoken in Connemara". Also includes background details of the Literary Awards. 1 item
149. 17 July 1939 - 18 August 1939 Two letters from the Secretary, Earnán de Slúnta, Coiste Cuimhneacháin an Craoibhin Aoibhinn to Bairéad relating to the awarding of Duais an Craoibhin (for 1938) for *An Geall a Briseadh*, requesting him to send a brief resume and account of his literary work, forwarding a cheque for £25, and advising Bairéad that he had read *An Geall a Briseadh* and *Cumhacht na Cinneamhna*, and enjoyed both (18 August 1939). (Irish) 2 items
150. October 1951 Oireachtas Certificate awarded to Bairéad for first prize for the short Irish story, 'Duais an Mhaoiánaigh'. 1 item



H. Letters of Appreciation, 1938 – 1973 (Irish)

151. 5 March 1938 Letter from Sr. M. B. (teacher in Coláiste na Torbheirte, Co. Laois), to Bairéad congratulating him on the stories and Irish in *Cumhacht na Cinneamhna*, advising they have been waiting a long time for such a book. 1p
152. 2 February 1944 Letter from Seán Ó Gruagáin (a teacher) to Bairéad telling him about how much he enjoyed *Cumhacht na Cinneamhna*, and that he has searched Dinneen (Irish-English Dictionary) while reading it with a student and cannot find half the words used by Bairéad. He compares the joy reading the book has given him to what he felt when he read 'Séadna' (1902) (by An t-Athair Peadar Ua Laoghaire²⁰, first published by the Gaelic League in 1898) and 'Iosagán' (1912) (a play by Padraic H. Pearse)²¹, and refers particularly to the nature stories and the richness of information in them. 4pp
153. 18 February 1973 Letter from S. MacÉoin, Warden of Wilson's Hospital, Multyfarnham, county Westmeath to Bairéad concerning his book [*Gan Baisteadh*], which he states is one of the most interesting gifts he ever received. He advises that his wife is a friend of Bairéad's daughter, and that he had not realised that Miss Barrett's father was "Tomás de Bhaiead (*sic*) an scriobhnóir." 1p

²⁰ O'Laoghaire (O'Leary) (1839-1920), was ordained in 1867. He supported Davitt and the Land League, and the Gaelic League. *Séadna* was one of the first Irish language books that was of interest to people. It was written in the simple Gaelic language of west Cork. (http://www.askaboutireland.ie/show_narrative_page.do?page_id=2000)

²¹ Pearse (1879-1916) was an educationalist, writer, and revolutionary. He was co-signatory of the 1916 Proclamation of Independence, Commandant-General, Commanding-in-Chief, of the IRA, and President of the Provisional Irish Government. He was executed 3 May 1916.

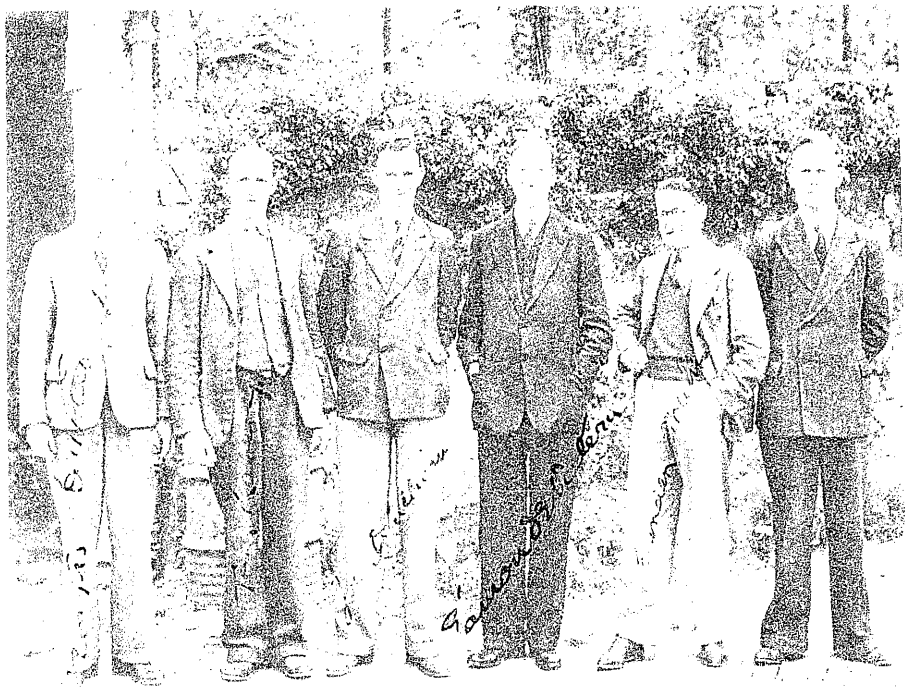


I. Bairéad's Drafts and Notes, 1934 – 1971(?)

154. 7 April 1934 -
1 January [1939?] Copybooks containing rough drafts of the short stories 'Lá an bPeitheainnar', 'Cáit a' Mhéadhaoin Oidhche' and 'Boladh na hAnbhruilthe', together with a poem, 'An Sagart O Domhnaill'.
3 items / 108pp
155. 6 June 1939 Rough notes and Irish phrases (on envelope from J.P. Davitt, Brooklyn, N.Y., addressed to Bairéad). (Irish)
1 item/ 2pp
156. 31 December [1940?] Rough notes of Irish phrases (on envelope)
1 item
157. n/d Handwritten drafts of the short story 'An tAithri Mhall. Includes shorthand notes on an envelope, with 'Aoibhneas' written on it, but not included here.
3 items /16pp
158. September [1952?] 'An Madra Alla': handwritten draft of the short story together with an analysis suggesting changes in the content together with points on grammar, which are listed by page number. Includes two envelopes addressed to Bairéad, with shorthand annotations.
20pp
159. [194-?] Drafts of three poems, titled 'An Aisling Bréagach', 'Conamara' and 'An Lacha Fiáin', includes corrections, also includes a list of clergy [in Dublin parishes]. (Irish)
3 items
160. [194-?] (Royal Hotel, Eyre Square, Galway) Postcard with rough notes and a list of three of his book titles, *Cumhacht na Cinneamhna*, *An Geall a Briseadh* and *Cruithneacht agus Ceannabháin*, and the awards achieved for the first two. (Irish)
1 item
161. [1943?] Draft of (incomplete) [speech] referring to the establishment of Conradh na Gaelige, written on the back of Dáil Éireann headed paper.
1 item



162. 29 January 1952 -
13 January 1971 Shorthand and rough notes in Irish (written on the back of envelopes addressed to Bairead).
2 items
163. 22 May 1952 Note relating to errors in pronunciations in Irish radio programmes. One poetry programme broadcast on 25 April 1952 is in particular criticised. (Irish)
1p
164. [1971?] Rough draft of preface for *Gan Baisteadh*, which includes a reference to Ailbhe O'Monachain and the 1916 Rising crossed out (p2). Also includes shorthand notes on the reverse. (Irish)
4pp
165. n/d Handwritten draft of a poem, three verses of four lines. Art Mór Mac Muirí Co. Muineacháin is written in brackets after the first verse.
2pp
166. n/d Rough draft of poem(s) in which the author laments the death of a friend, includes corrections throughout. (Irish)
2pp
167. n/d Rough draft of a verse.
1 item



GP2/32. Left to right: Tomás Bairéad, Tom Lavery, John O Sullivan (*Cork Examiner*),
Éamon De Valera, Brendan Malin (*Irish Press*) and Michael [Kearney]. Each man has affixed
his signature adjacent to his image, circa 1943