IRISH TIMES LETTER

24 DECEMBER 2012

Sir,

In your report on 21 December of the National Library of Ireland's rediscovery of a batch of Casement letters and documents donated after the death of his cousin and heir, Gertrude Parry, a certain photograph was used again and for the third time in two years.

Still captioned “Sir Roger Casement is escorted to the gallows of Pentonville Prison, London, in 1916,” it was the subject of recent correspondence when JK McCarthy reported that on 19 July 1916 in the Daily Mirror it was properly titled “Casement, escorted by a warder, leaving the courts after his appeal had been dismissed.” Gerry Lyne, formerly of the NLI himself, had earlier pointed out that those going to the gallows would not normally be so elegantly attired.

Casement's appeal ran over the two days 17 and 18 July 1916 and he was hanged on 3 August, despite three cabinet discussions on a possible reprieve. He actually knew several of its members, with whom he had worked over his Congo and Peruvian investigations.

The newly released papers carry several excellent photographs of the younger Casement, and the first ever found of his volatile sister Nina. Indeed there are a large number of other, rarely seen, portrait photographs in the NLI, and on its website, which are not in copyright and are available without charge. They might be used in future to vary the diet, and the gallows phrasing reviewed.  
  
Yours sincerely  
  
Jeffrey Dudgeon