**DICK MORTEN CORRESPONDENCE**

**ANNOTATED NLI MSS LIST AND PROVENANCE IN ROGER CASEMENT ADDITIONAL PAPERS LIST 103 (ACCESSION 4902)**

**MSS. 36,199-36,212 LETTERS TO RICHARD MORTEN 1898-1916 AND OTHER RELATED MORTEN ITEMS (ORIGINALS AND COPIES) INCLUDING THOSE NEWLY DISCOVERED IN NLI 17401-6**

**(See separate file for transcripts)**

Accession 4902 (NLI MSS. 36,199-36,212) was made up from two lots acquired at auction. According to the NLI, “The Papers were purchased at the Sotheby auction of 19 July 1994 (lots 325-326). While their previous provenance is unclear, the presence of some papers relating to Thomas Collins (b. 1913), of Glasgow, the biographer of John Ogilvie, suggests that he had some connection with them. The large amount of material subsequent to Casement’s execution and associated with his cousin Gertrude Parry, née Bannister, and her husband, Methold Sidney Parry, along with Casement’s friend Alice Stopford Green, is indicative of the source of much of the material. The extraneous material relating to the naval career of Henry Schomberg Kerr (1838-1895) who became a Jesuit and missionary, support the connection of the Papers with Thomas Collins.”

Were these two lots at Sotheby’s from two separate sources and did Collins collect up some of the items himself like the Morten and Cowper correspondence? The NLI implies one source is Parry-related.

On 23 July 1994, the Irish Times reported the NLI’s purchase of the two lots of Casement documentation at a price of £17,000 for the letters to Richard Morten and £8,000 for those to Francis Cooper [Cowper]. No mention is made of the rest.

An undated cutting about Cowper’s collection of letters is in MS 36207/5 quoting his barrister son also Francis who was talking of publishing the correspondence and confirming his mother was a cousin of Mrs de Valera.

The lots included also, oddly, a WJ Maloney typescript, and, amongst others, Sidney Parry and Alice Stopford Green items. Both lots were not necessarily from the same source. Collins possibly collected some, most likely the Parry items in Co. Antrim but were the Parry items separate and a different lot than the rest or were the Morten or Cowper letters a discrete item?

The confusion is compounded by the fact that certain Casement to Morten letter originals are in other NLI manuscript folders e.g. the letters of 3 June 1916 and 2 January 1905 (in part) are in MS 13,600 as photocopies of the ms. original, and that of 28 July 1916 is in MS 17,044 being “Roger Casement to Dick Morten, (3 sides handwritten); donated by Eamon de Valera.”

The front of the first version of Roger Casement Special Collection List A15 used to have the previous listing of the Acc. 4902 papers, before cataloguing, in their series of numbered folders.

The Morten papers element of Acc. 4902 was catalogued in 2006 as MS 36,199 (1-6) (originals) and MS 36,200 (1-2) (typescript transcriptions). All are now listed in NLI Collection List 103 ‘Roger Casement Additional Papers.’

Geoffrey Parmiter (d. 2000) quoted at length from several letters in his 1936 book *Roger Casement*, using those of 2 July 1899, 15 March 1901, 3 July 1905, 10 July 1906 and 8 July 1916. He seems to have had access to the typescripts rather than the originals as many personal names are initials in both e.g. D for Dick. Most likely he created the typescripts. But who sent the letters to auction and owned them then?

The probated wills of Dick Morten (1859-1930) and his first wife May (1869-1924) have been obtained. His second wife Edith, née Green, died in 1949.

One complete letter only from Dick Morten survives (NLI MS 13,073/46 xiii ‘n.d.’), and a fragment from another in 1905. Were the rest in the cache of Casement papers burnt by F.J. Bigger or destroyed by George Gavan Duffy in 1915? Similarly, next to no letters to Casement from Gertrude Bannister, E.D. Morel or Francis Cowper are extant, despite voluminous correspondence in the other direction and few from Bigger.

**[N.B. More original manuscript letters to Morten unlisted in NLI catalogues or Hayes ‘Sources’ were located in 2012. See below.]**

A manuscript sheet is typically a 4-sided item.

There are 31 original manuscripts (and some covers) in the list and 37 typescripts (one with two letters, one of which, that of 17 March 1898, has no original, making 38 typescripts in all), of which eleven - less six originals now found - have no originals (the 15 March 1901 typescript is the same as the 5 March 1901 manuscript despite the date difference in the catalogue.)

There are therefore 42 separate items (exc. covers and the verse fragment) in List 103. Four more letters from Casement to Morten are listed below plus one from Morten to Casement, one from Mrs Morten to Casement, one from Gavan Duffy to Morten and one Casement to his cousins making up the 50 electronically transcribed elsewhere.

Four original letters in A15 (4 May 1906, 5 May 1906, 9 August 1906 and 22 January 1908), an undated card and an undated note lack NLI typescripts (marked ‘NT’ meaning ‘No typescript’).

Four manuscript originals are still entirely missing and only have typescript versions: 6 September 1893, 18 to 30 March 1894, 17 March 1898 and 22 October 1898 (cover note only found).

One original dated 2 March 1914, is still incomplete (missing a sheet which is not even present in typescript form).

Typescripts in the list are marked (T); manuscript originals (O). ‘No Or’ means no original in MS originals list 36,199.

\* = electronically transcribed (in seven cases, 9 December 1902, 24 September 1904, 3 July 1905, 8 July 1905, 10 July 1906, 14 January 1910, and 7 August 1913, it is unclear whether the transcript is based on the manuscript or the typescript).

**NLI catalogue (annotated) - Letters to Richard Morten 1898-1916**

**1.1. ORIGINAL LETTERS - MS 36,199/1**

**1.1.1. 1898-1900 and undated**

*8 items*.

n.y. May 1. Card with small photographic print of Morten’s fiancée *1 item* **[Not Morten’s fiancée but Richard Coudenhove’s - NLI catalogue error - as indicated by the similar handwriting. Writing on both sides.]** O\*/NT

1898 Mar. 9. *1 sheet*. O\*/T

May 27. *1 sheet*. O\*/T

[1898 Oct.?]. *1 sheet*. **[Typescript carries another letter dated 17 March 1898 while in NLI 17,401 there is a connected loose cover postmarked 19 October 1898]** O\*/T\*

1899 Feb. 19. Incomplete: lacks all after 1st sheet. *1 sheet.* **[remainder in NLI MS 13080/6/ii]** O\*/T

- July 2. *5 sheets*. Incomplete: lacks 4th-6th sheets. **[found in NLI MS 17,403]** O/T\*

Oct. 12. *2 sheets*. O\*/T

1900 Nov 26. *9 sheets*. **[Sheets 5 and 7 are missing in ms. Typescript lacks end.]** O/T\*

**1.1.2. 1901-1905**

**MS 36,199/2**

*7 items*.

1901 Mar. 5 Incomplete; lacks 1st sheet. *3 sheets* **[Same as typescript which has missing original 1st sheet (correctly dated in catalogue as 15 March); ms. has 5 March date handwritten on sheet 2 - “[1901 March 5]”.****Missing original sheet was found in 17,406. Tell NLI they are the same letter and of 15 March date.]** O\*/T

Oct 30. *1 sheet*. **[not 1911 and is 31st Oct]** O\*/T

1902 Dec. 9. *1 sheet + cover*. O/T

1904 Sept. 24. *1 sheet*. O/T

1905 Jan 2. *6 sheets*. Incomplete: lacks 1st and 2nd sheets **[of 7**. **Missing sheets found in NLI MS 17,402**.**]** With fragment of Morten’s reply. O\*/T

July 3. *3 sheets*. O/T

July 8. *1 sheet*. O/T

**1.1.3. 1906-1908**

**MS 36,199/3**

*7 items*.

1906 May 4. *1 sheet. + cover*. O\*/NT

May 5. *1 sheet +**cover*. **[Undated in ms. date is perhaps 5 May from so-dated cover.]**  O\*/NT

June 30. *2 sheets + cover + 2 fragments of verse found in cover*. **[No verses in typescript.]**  O\*/T

July 10. *3 sheets*. O/T Aug 4. *1 sheet + cover*. O\*/T

Aug 9. *1 sheet*. O\*/NT

1908 Jan. 22. *2 sheets*. O\*/NT

**1.1.4. 1909-1914**

**MS 36,199/4**

*6 items*.

1909 Sept 14, Nov 10. *3 sheets*. **[Two dates are in one letter.]** O\*/T 1910 Jan 14.*2 sheets* lacks 2nd and 3rd sheets. **[originals in NLI 17,403]** O/T

1913 Aug 7. *1 sheet*. O/T

1914 Mar. 2. incomplete; lacks 3rd sheet. *3 sheets*. O\*/T

[1914 after Mar 2?]. *1 sheet*. O\*/T

1914 Oct. 15. *3 sheets*. O\*/T

**1.1.5. 1916**

**MS 36,199/5**

*2 items*.

1916 June 3. *1 sheet*. **[Folder cover wrongly says July 3. Photocopy of the ms. original is also in NLI MS 13,600]**  O\*/T

July 8. *1 sheet*. **[not 8 June]** O\*/T

**1.1.6. Undated (1) and Covers (6)**

**MS 36,199/6**

Undated note beginning “Till tomorrow!” 1 sheet. O\*/NT

Covers franked**:** 1897 Dec. 20; 1898 Oct. 19; Oct. 22; 1905 May 2 [Liverpool, black-edged]; 1906 Jan. 2; 1910 Feb. 7**. [London]** *6 items*. **[No likely accompanying letters except that notionally dated 19 October 1898 and that actually dated 22 October 1898.]**

**1.2. TYPESCRIPTS - MS 36,200/1**

**[37 items – 4 without originals]**

**1.2.1. 1893-1904**

*19 items*.

1893 Sept. 6. *1 sheet*. **No Or/**T\*

1894 Mar. 18-30. *3 sheets*. **No Or/**T\*

1898 Mar. 9. *1 sheet*. O\*/T

Mar. 17. with [1898? Oct.]. *2 sheets*. **[In typescript, one No Or]** O/T\*

May 17. *1 sheet*. **No Or/**T\*

May 27. *1 sheet*. O\*/T

Sept 19. *2 sheet* **O in 17,401**/T\*

Oct. 22. *2 sheets*. **Original cover note to verses in 17,401.** **No Or**/T\*

1899 Feb. 19. *1 sheet*. **[Ms. original lacks all after first sheet; remainder in MS 13080/6ii/7]** O\*/T July 2. *6 sheets*. **[Ms. original lacks 4th-6th sheets which are in typescript; found in NLI MS 17,403.]**  O/T\*

Oct 12. *2 sheets*. O\*/T

1900 Sept. 7. *1 sheet*. **O in 17,401**/T\*

Nov. 26. *8 sheets* **[Typescript lacks end and Ms. sheets 5 & 7.]** O/T\*

1901 Mar. 15. *6 sheets*. **[Same as original ms. notionally dated Mar. 5 1901 but here with once missing first sheet.]** O**\*/**T

Oct. 30. *1 sheet*. O\*/T

1902 Dec. 9. *1 sheet*. O/T

1904 July 8. *1 sheet*. **[not 8 July 1905 but might be March 1904]** O/T\*

Sept. 24. *1 sheet*. O/T

**1.2.1. 1905-1916**

**MS 36,200/2**

*18 items*.

1905 Jan. 2. *8 sheets*. **[Original ms. lacks 1st and 2nd sheets which are in typescript which in turn lacks last sheet and any of Morten’s reply. Missing original sheets found in NLI MS 17,402 and 17,405]** O\*/T

July 3. *3 sheets*. O/T

July 8. *1 sheet*. O/T

1906 June 30. *2 sheets*. **[Actually 3 sheets in typescript. Two fragments of**

**verse in original are not in the typescript.]**  O/T

July 10. *2 sheets*. O/T

Aug. 4. *1 sheet*. O\*/T

Sept. 20. *1 sheet* **Original in NLI MS 17,402/**T

1909 Aug. 3. *2 sheets*. **Original in NLI MS 17,402/**T\*

Sept. 14. *3 sheets*. **[Typescript includes letter of 10 Nov. 1909]** O\*/T

1910 Jan. 14. *2 sheets*. **[Ms. original lacks 2nd and 3rd sheets but these are in typescript. Originals found in NLI 17,403]** O\*/T

1913 Aug. 7. *1 sheet*. O/T

1914 Mar. 2. *2 sheets*. **[Ms. original lacks 3rd sheet of 4, as does typescript.]** O\*/T

[1914] [Mar?]. *1 sheet*. O\*/T

1914 June 29. *2 sheet* **Original in NLI MS 17,402/**T

Oct. 15. *2 sheets*. O\*/T

1916 June 3. *2 sheets*. O\*/T

June 11. *1 sheet*. **Original in NLI MS 17,402/17,405**/T\*

July 8. *3 sheets***. [not 8 June]**  O\*/T

**LIST OF OTHER MORTEN/CASEMENT-RELATED MANUSCRIPTS**

The other eight unique and transcribed documents are four letters to Dick Morten from Casement of 11 June 1895 (not sent), 1 May 1906 (newly found), 1 May 1914 and 28 July 1916, one letter from Dick Morten to Casement (n.d.), one from Mrs. May Morten to Casement (25 September 1914) and one from George Gavan Duffy to Dick Morten (9 June 1916), plus one Morten-related letter from Casement to his cousins Gertrude and Elizabeth (30 June 1916). Some of these and several others also appear in copy form in various archives and are listed below.

1. **NLI MS 36,205** Roger Casement to Richard Morten dated 11 June 1895 and written on the back of a black-edged letter from Herbert Ward whose wife’s mother, Mrs Sanford died on 7 June that month, but presumably never sent to Morten. **ORIGINAL/UNIQUE/TRANSCRIBED**
2. **(a) NLI MS 21,158** “ Letters from Roger Casement to Lady Constance Emmott, June-Nov. 1912, with one letter from Lady Emmott while Casement was in prison, 1916, letter from prison chaplain, Aug. 1916, and letter to Richard Marten, 1941.  [Should be Morten and 1914] Photocopy: originals in Public Record Office; Belfast, No. TD 3039.” **[NLI wrong -]** Farmleigh now has the original, “A letter from Roger Casement to Richard Morten. Malahide, Co. Dublin. 1st. May, 1914. 9 p.” numbered 1059/5. **ORIGINAL/UNIQUE/TRANSCRIBED** The actual overall PRONI number is T3072/1-13 which consists of 15 items, 9 letters to Lady Emmott, one (10A) to Dick Morten 1 May 1914, and three others from 1916.]

**(b) PRONI MS T3072/10A** - 1 May 1914: Casement, 'M'hide' to 'my dear Dick' [Richard Morten, a close friend of Casement's in England, concerning the Home Rule question in Ireland.] In the Emmott run of the McPeake papers. Not in NLI but in Farmleigh**.**

**(c) PRONI MS T3072/10B** - Typescript copy of T3072/10A.

**(d) PRONI MS T3793/2/13** - 1 May 1914: Five negatives showing part of a letter from Roger Casement, Malahide, Dublin, to Richard Morton, England, concerning the home rule question in Ireland. (T3072/10A). (Name now corrected to ‘Morten’ not ‘Morton’ by PRONI.)

1. **(a) NLI MS 17,044** Acc. no. 1904: “1916 28 July. Roger Casement to Dick Morten, (3 sides handwritten); donated by Eamon de Valera.” 28 July 1916 **ORIGINAL/UNIQUE/TRANSCRIBED**

**(b) NLI MS 31,724 (5)** “Copy letter from Roger Casement to Richard Morten 1916 July 28. 1 typescript: On their friendship, Casement's trial, his achievements.” (Same as above letter in MS 17,044, except typed and only the beginning part of letter).

1. **NLI MS 13,073/46 xiii** Richard Morten to Roger Casement 1 letter; undated. £12.10. debt repaid (only full letter from Morten to Casement). **TRANSCRIBED**
2. **NYPL Maloney IHP 18**: 1914 25 Sept., Mrs. F. May Morten to Roger Casement, original. **TRANSCRIBED**
3. **NLI MS 10,763 (8) –** George Gavan Duffy 9 June 1916, original carbon copy, to Richard Morton **[sic]** Esq., Savoy Hotel, Denham. ‘Dear Mr. Morton: My client begs me to impress upon you the great importance of talking to nobody, under any circumstances, about any of the matters that you discussed yesterday.’ **TRANSCRIBED**
4. **PRONI MS T3306/F/4** (related due to Morten mention) 30 June 1916. Roger Casement to Elizabeth (Eily) Bannister and Gertrude Bannister. **TRANSCRIBED**
5. **NLI MS 13,080/6 ii** “Roger Casement to Richard Morten 1 letter; [189?].” This is the remainder, that is the second, (once missing) original sheet of the 18 February 1899 letter. The ‘sheet’ is four sides of a folded card being the end of the letter. The detail in MS 36,199/1 (original) reads “1899 Feb. 19. Incomplete: lacks all after 1st sheet. *1 sheet*.” The typescript of the whole letter is in MS 36,200/1 described as “1899 Feb. 19. *1 sheet*.”
6. **NLI MS 13,600** “Photocopies of letters of Roger Casement and associated documents.” **–** Acc. 2427. Nine items. Casement’s 11 June 1916 letter to Dick Morten (photocopy of ms original) which is also inNLI MS 36200/2 (typescript), and one of 2 January 1905 (photocopy of first two sheets of ms. original, 8 sides, ends “former is no crime – in”; address missing); the missing original sheets now found in NLI MS 17,402 and 17,405.

The batch of copies in Acc 2427 (MS 13,600) came from a house in Ballycastle ‘occupied by a Casement relative’ according to Alexander Boyle, the donator, in a letter dated 13 May 1964 from Glasgow and were then in the ‘communal possession’ of ‘second generation Irishmen,’ probably including Thomas Collins.

**REDISCOVERED ITEMS (ONE ORIGINAL)**

On 18 November 2012, I discovered twelve Casement to Dick Morten items in NLI MSS 17,401-3 and 17,405-6, being **one brand new letter (1 May 1906),** four partial letters (two missing sheets from one are in different folders), one cover note, and six, previously missing, complete original letters in their manuscript form.

The series of folders from 17401to 17420 was omitted from Hayes Sources. They are now catalogued and digitised in the main NLI catalogue as:

‘Roger Casement's correspondence and papers, 1898-1924.

Extent: 20 folders.

Format: Manuscript

Call Number: MS 17,401-17,420 (Manuscripts Reading Room)’

**NLI MS 17,401**

“Three original ms. letters by Casement to “Richard H. Morton (sic)” 1893-1914; 19 September 1898, 7 September 1900 & n.d.”

19 September 1898

‘n.d.’ actually 22 October 1898; cover note for verses only.

7 September 1900

**NLI MS 17,402**

“6 letters to Richard Morton (sic) from Roger Casement 1905-16”

2 January 1905 (sheet 1 - sheet 2 in 17,405)

1 May 1906 – **ORIGINAL/UNIQUE/TRANSCRIBED** black edged, Roddie “try and get my Aunt’s income continued to them from Ireland” [Martins of Dublin perhaps??]

20 September 1906 Euston Hotel notepaper.

3 August 1909 from Rio.

29 June 1914 from Ardrigh signed R.C.

11 June 1916 from Brixton initialed four times once in red – Cdt., W.S., C.W., E.B. (Ernley Blackwell?).

**NLI MS 17,403**

2 July 1899 sheets 4-6, from St Paul de Loanda.

14 January 1910 sheets 2-3, with Irish Trademark, mention of Brazil being a ‘ghastly hole.’

**NLI MS 17,405**

2 January 1905 (sheet 2 – sheet 1 in 17,402)

**NLI MS 17,406**

15 March 1901 from Matadi, one four-sided sheet being the missing original sheet (present in typescript).

8 March 1904 from Ballycastle.