

# *The Women's History Project: some sources for the history of Tipperary*

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By Maria Luddy

The Women's History Project, which was established in September 1997, has three main objectives:

- 1 To survey and record sources relevant to the history of women in Ireland
- 2 To list these sources and to make the list available to the public
- 3 To publish historical documents relating to the history of women in Ireland

There were two major surveying projects undertaken by the Project. One involved contacting and visiting various repositories in order to ascertain and list the material they contained relevant to women's history. The second survey, which is still ongoing, is to survey the files of the Department of the Taoiseach, held in the National Archives, and to enter any references from these files relating to women on to a database.

Before I continue with what our survey revealed as sources for the history of Tipperary, readers might be interested in the other work that was undertaken by Project staff. Part of our brief was also to publish material relating to women in Irish history. To this end, Dr. Jean Agnew edited and annotated the correspondence of William Drennan and his sister, Martha McTier between 1776 and 1819.<sup>1</sup> The original letters are held in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland – just over 1,400 letters, mainly between Martha McTier and her brother William. The letters are, of course, of outstanding importance for historians of the 1798 Rebellion because of Drennan's active involvement with the United Irishmen.

While the letters of Drennan are widely known, those of his sister Martha are less so. Clearly of political significance, the letters are also of importance and interest for what they tell us of life in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Through these letters William and Martha provide us with direct accounts of their life experiences, their domestic, social and political preoccupations. While the letters are a vital source for the politics of the period, they can also be used to deepen our understanding of life for the middle classes at this time. Through them we can explore the world of domesticity, investigate the intimacy of marriage and personal relationships, observe the impact and importance of reading on a woman's life, and witness the development of political views. We can investigate attitudes to servants, to health, to the profession of medicine.

We can assess contemporary views on childbirth and children. Martha's and William's letters were a forum for the exchange of political ideas, family news, gossip, advice, information and feelings. Unfortunately there is nothing in the letters about Tipperary; but they are a magnificent source for the period and are worth reading on that account alone.

A second publication issuing from the Project was a collection of the photographs of Eleanor Wiltshire. This book, entitled *If Ever You Go To Dublin Town*, was published jointly with the National Library of Ireland. Mrs. Wiltshire, who now resides in London, was a commercial photographer (working with her husband in Dublin) who in her spare time photographed



scenes of Irish life, mainly centred in Dublin, from the 1950s to the 1970s. The photographs, with a commentary by Orla Fitzpatrick, are wonderfully evocative. Other publications forthcoming from the Project are a *Calendar of the Papers of the Ulster Women's Unionist Council, 1911-1942*, edited by Diane Urquhart, and an edited edition of the diaries of Elizabeth Dillon, wife of the Irish Party politician John Dillon, which are being edited by Leeann Lane. Dillon played a major role in the New Tipperary project of 1889 and later.

To return to the survey work being undertaken by the Project, one aspect of this work, which is ongoing, involves surveying the files of the Department of the Taoiseach. There are about 1,400 boxes of files and we are going through each box and each file and entering information regarding women onto a database. In mid-2000 approximately half of these files have been surveyed and about 10,000 entries have been made on to our database. All of this information will be made available to researchers via the World Wide Web by the end of 2001.

These files document government policy in relation to every aspect of Irish life. Some of the files relate to the drafting and enactment of, and public reaction to, legislation; others chronicle the development of government policy on a broad spectrum of issues. The files include considerable information relevant to the study of the political, social and economic position of women in Ireland since 1922. There are files, for instance, on women's opposition to the Civil Service Amendment Act of 1925 and the provisions of the 1937 Constitution. The files also contain fascinating material for the post-Civil War period on women activists and on women prisoners. I am certain that when the database is made available to researchers it will initiate studies that will provide new insights into women's lives in twentieth-century Ireland.

### Questionnaire – then visits!

The major work of the Project, to survey and list sources relevant to the history of women in Ireland, was undertaken between October 1997 and June 1999. During that period we contacted 420 public and private repositories in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland for collections or information relating to the history of women in Ireland from the earliest times to the present. In order to survey existing records two strategies were followed: the construction of a questionnaire that could be completed by keepers of papers, and the organisation of visits to various repositories. We needed some way of ascertaining from existing repositories just what material was available and how best it might be entered on to our database.

The questionnaire was an attempt to provide us with that information. Once questionnaires were returned, follow-up visits were made by staff of the Project and material entered on to a Microsoft access database. In many cases we found that the questionnaires were not returned; instead, many keepers of papers urged us to visit and see for ourselves what material was available. We visited libraries, museums, convents, hospitals, and various institutions all around the country. Most of the institutions visited were in the Dublin area, where we listed material for 97 repositories. The holdings of 31 repositories were listed for county Antrim. But every county in the country is represented on the database.

For Tipperary we visited eight repositories. These were: Bolton Library, Cashel; Cashel Diocesan Archives; Clonmel Corporation; St. Luke's Hospital, Clonmel; St. Patrick's Hospital, Cashel; Tipperary Joint Libraries, Thurles; Tipperary South Riding County Museum, Clonmel; and the Ursuline Convent, Thurles. Time constraints limited our ability to visit more repositories, but we hope to do that in updating the database in a few years.

There are also, of course, many sources relevant for the history of Tipperary to be found in



other repositories around the country. From our list of 420 contacted repositories and individuals we eventually visited about 360 places and our final published database contains details of the holdings of 262 repositories. In all, the *Directory of Sources for the History of Women in Ireland* contains information and descriptions of over 14,000 collections and sources with over 100,000 pieces of information.

The criteria for inclusion in this survey were very broad. We were interested in finding material on women of all classes and in all time periods; contemporary material is listed as well as older material. We also attempted to include sources in the Irish language. The main criteria for inclusion were that the collections contained material about women's lives and roles. We used the following categories as a way of ascertaining where material relating to women might be found in particular archives or repositories:

- collections of individual women;
- records of women's organisations;
- religious/ecclesiastical records;
- records of an organisation, institution or movement in which women played a significant but not exclusive part;
- records of an organisation, institution, or movement that significantly influenced women's lives;
- papers of any family in which there are papers of female members;
- collections with 'hidden' women.

It was this last category which we hoped would prove particularly fruitful – and so it did. These were collections that contained significant or extensive material about women but whose title or main emphasis did not indicate the presence of such material. We concentrated our energy on listing manuscript or typescript material. Originally we did not expect to list published documents; however, in some repositories we came across rare copies of pamphlets that dealt with issues relating to women. We believed that it was important to bring these documents to the attention of researchers.

Once the survey was finished and the first editing process completed, copies of the database entries were returned to the repositories. This was done to ensure that librarians and keepers of papers were happy with the entries made and to ensure that the information was as accurate as possible. The sheer size of some of the material returned for verification made it difficult, and in some cases impossible, for each entry to be checked individually for accuracy. However, we believe that, given the limitations of time imposed on the Project, the entries are as accurate as they can be.

### **How the Directory was compiled**

In some cases original database entries were made for material held by repositories, but for a number of reasons the material is not open to researchers and therefore neither the repository nor the information appears in the *Directory*. This accounts for the discrepancy in the number of repositories visited and the final number of repositories appearing in the CD-ROM. In some instances the material was not catalogued and staff are unavailable to handle research enquiries. Where repositories are listed the extent of the information placed in the database was very much dependent on whether a guide, list or catalogue was available within the repository for the material being entered.



We used the lists provided to us by librarians and curators. Many of these lists were held on computer and are not accessible to the public. Some lists are published and we have provided details of those publications where applicable. Where no lists were available, staff of the Women's History Project constructed an outline list of the relevant material. In all repositories, and in particular large repositories such as the National Library of Ireland and the National Archives in Dublin, we called up some material to ascertain the extent to which a particular collection related to women. This was done especially in instances where it was unclear whether women formed part of a collection.

However, given the time constraints placed on our work, not every document or collection listed in the *Directory* was called up and read. Our national repositories, such as the National Library of Ireland and the National Archives, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and others, have extensive collections of material. From these larger repositories only a sample of the material relating to women was investigated and listed. It would have taken years and an enormous staff to go through every collection and every document in these repositories. However, we hope that the examples we have given will provide an indication of the richness of the holdings of these larger institutions for women's history.

We also wanted to extract information from the more obscure collections or those collections that are not normally quarried for material relating to women. We would urge researchers to use the catalogues of these major repositories to uncover other material relevant to women and to keep in mind that catalogues are constantly being updated and new collections being donated to repositories. Also, researchers should talk to librarians and archivists who look after papers. One of the notable features of our visits to repositories was how knowledgeable keepers of papers are about their collections.

There are variations in the quality and extent of the descriptions in the *Directory*. A diverse range of repositories was visited during this survey. There is a great variety in the way material is listed in these different repositories. Professional archivists have particular ways in which they list and categorise documents and collections. In many of the private repositories the archivist is often a volunteer and the listing can be more individualistic.

There is no consistency in the way material is listed between institutions, and that inconsistency is reflected in this *Directory*. The survey is currently available in CD-ROM format as *A Directory of Sources for Women's History in Ireland*. We are also placing the information on to the Internet, a process we hope to have completed by September 2000; the web address will be widely advertised.

### Rich Tipperary material

So, what about the sources relevant to the history of Tipperary? The following small sample offers some guide to the range of material available around the country and is taken from the *Directory*. It would be impossible to list all of the material the database contains on Tipperary, since the list could run to hundreds of pages. The examples given here are listed without their relevant manuscript numbers. These are available on the database.<sup>2</sup>

It should be noted that while we were concerned with listing sources for the history of women, the information the *Directory* contains offers much more than that. Indeed, our hope is that the *Directory* will alert researchers to the possibilities of investigating all aspects of Irish history by utilising the sources we have uncovered.

All of the repositories we visited in the county had wonderful collections. For instance, in the Tipperary South Riding County Museum in Clonmel we listed a large collection of documents



of political, economic and social interest. Amongst these were numerous leases of lands for the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries. For instance, from c1827 there is a note relating to Catherine Lonergan's Clonmel property. For more recent history the researcher can discover much about local nursing in the papers of the Jubilee Nurses. The following items give an example of the type of material available:

Printed Annual Reports of the Cashel District Nursing Association for 1956, affiliated to the Queen's Institute of District Nursing in Ireland;

Printed Annual Report of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing in Ireland for 1943, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964;

Completed forms, 'Department of Local Government and Public Health, Maternity and Child Welfare' regarding statistical information on the number of cases for the years 1945-1948; 1948-1951;

Completed expense claim form claiming recoupment of expenses from the Department of Local Government and Public Health from Cahir Jubilee Nursing Association, 1943-1944;

Manuscript statistical information regarding the Cahir Jubilee Nurses Association, for the year ended 31 December 1941, and for 1950;

Draft copy of Cahir Jubilee Nursing Association report for the year ending 2 February 1944;

Manuscript reports of the Cahir Jubilee Nursing Association for the year ending 2 February 1941, 1942, 1943, 1959/1960;

Typed reports of the Cahir Jubilee Nursing Association for the years 1942, 1943, 1944, 1952-1953 1958-1959, 1960, 1961-1962, 1963, 1964-1965;

Printed reports of the Cahir Jubilee Nursing Association for the years 1945, 1946, 1947, 1949, 1950.

In the Museum there are also papers relating to the Irish Country Women's Federation from the 1950s to the 1970s.

The most extensive collection of material is to be found in the County Library in Thurles. Here are housed a vast collection of poor law records for many poor law unions of the county. (Indeed, the Women's History Project has listed all known poor law records throughout the country on our database). For Thurles Library we have also listed their collection of Grand Jury Presentments, which date from 1842 to 1899. Local government records, such as rural district council minute books, are also listed.

There are a number of volumes of Town Commissioners minutes, such as those of Carrick-on-Suir for 1896-1902. There is also a photocopy of a file relating to the Fever Hospital in Carrick-on-Suir for 1823-1828. One of the more recent collections given to the Library are the minute books of Clonmel District Lunatic Asylum, which date from 1843 to 1942 and comprise some 41 volumes of material. In the County Library are also to be found a large collection of rentals from various estates. There are, for instance, three volumes relating to Thurles Estate for 1843, 1858 and 1863.

In repositories outside the county there is also a wealth of material relating to Tipperary. In the Military Archives in Dublin, for instance, there is much on women and on Tipperary. For example, we noted in the Captured Documents Collection the following: 3rd Tipperary and 2nd Waterford Brigade, documents captured, Coolnamuck, Carrick-on-Suir; this includes 3rd Tipperary Brigade arrangements relating to disbursements from the Irish Republican Prisoners Dependants' Fund.



In the same Collection was the following:

Cumann na mBan papers captured in 'Baby Club' 21 Werburgh Street, Dublin on 7 February 1923 includes letter dated 15 December 1922 from the assistant Adjutant General, IRA, to Hon Secs Cumann na mBan regarding the role of that organisation in the war; correspondence and documents relating to Irish Republican Prisoners Dependents' Fund (7 December 1922-December 1922); letters of 25 January 1923 from B O' Mhaolain, prisoner in Mountjoy, to the Cumann na mBan executive, requesting the issue of the order cancelling a hunger-strike by S Humphreys and M Comerford; reports on organisation and personnel of Cumann na mBan units in counties Kilkenny, Dublin, Carlow, Wexford, Kildare, Offaly, Laois and Tipperary (18 November 1922-21 January 1923); documents regarding proficiency tests undergone by Cumann na mBan personnel; reports dated 29 October 1922 and 5 January 1923 respectively regarding the participation of Cumann na mBan personnel in (i) raid on a house at Paulstown, County Kilkenny and (ii) rescue of wounded prisoner and clearing of arms dump in Dundalk area; directives from GHQ, IRA, regarding the submission of weekly intelligence reports (28 December 1922) and the acquisition of information from persons in contact with Free State troops and official agencies (3 January 1923); intelligence reports from Cumann na mBan units in counties Mayo, Dublin, Tipperary and Dublin city (27 October 1922-24 January 1923); miscellaneous correspondence regarding activities of Cumann na mBan (7 November 1922-4 February 1923).

Likewise, in the National Library of Ireland Tipperary found a mention in the Land League Papers with specific reference to the Ladies' Land League. In this collection we find:

Letters to Virginia Lynch including letter from Mountrath stating that the 'ladies there are going very well'; letter from Lizzie Rogers, president of the Ladies' Land League in Whitegate, County Galway, noting 'indeed it [the Ladies' Land League] is carried out in a very dull manner', also about eviction; letters about funding and grants, account of a Ladies' Land League meeting held by the Kilmore branch; letter regarding the children's League in Carrick on Shannon; an account from Cahir County Tipperary about the sale of farms of the tenants of Mrs Margaret Charteris.

In the Ormonde Papers of the National Library we came across the following:

Documents and papers relating to Ormonde lands mainly in County Tipperary, 166?-1758, c30 items, including Patrick Denny's opinion on the estate and title of Elizabeth, Countess of Ormond to Dromayne and other lands, 1657-1658; Mrs. Godfrey Green's bond relating to the manor of Derrygrath, 1671.

Also to be found are: Miscellaneous papers mainly about the management of the Ormonde estates in Kilkenny and Tipperary, c44 items, 1604-86. These include P Grene to E Butler regarding a survey of the Countess of Ormonde's moiety of Cooleeshelbeg, 1655; T. Wheeler to Marchioness of Ormonde about disputed land in Inistioge, 1657; Anstace Tobin to Madam Elizabeth Butler, Bealaragett, requesting her to intercede with her father regarding a land dispute, 1681.

In the Archives Department of University College Dublin, in the Ernie O'Malley Collection,



which dates from 1916-1956, are the following: the O'Malley notebooks of interviews from the 1930s onwards with former army personnel. These include some women, for example, Madge Clifford secretary to Stack, Lynch and O'Malley, Bridie Clynes, Dublin, Maire Comerford, Dublin, Hannah Condon Cleary (godmother to Liam Lynch), Nora Loughnane of Galway, Nonie Kennedy (sister of Paddy Lacken Ryan of Tipperary). In the Archives Small Collections can be found wills and marriage settlements relating to the Scully family of counties Tipperary and Dublin, including the marriage settlement of Agnes Zimmermann and John Scully (1882) and the will of Agnes Scully (1895).

In the Representative Church Body Library we uncovered the following: Register of Tipperary County Infirmary, giving names, addresses, age, disease, dates of admission and discharge or death, length of stay for the years 1829-1851. In the Waterford Diocesan Archives we came across a box marked 1885-1889. The material in this box is unlisted but includes the following:

Printed, 'Regulations for Lent to be observed in the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore for the Year 1885'.

Letter 7 November 1883 regarding legacy left to the Presentation Convent, Carrick-on-Suir.

Letters from Perresse Wall, solicitors, business and financial details, some include women, for example, letter relating to the lease of Clogheen Convent, March 1886, about 24 letters in all.

Letter from Presentation Convent, Carrick-on-Suir, 15 March 1889.

Letters from the Presentation Convent, Dungarvan, 1889.

Letters from the Convent of Mercy, Cahir, 1889, c12 letters.

A number of documents, including correspondence regarding the 'Clogheen Convent Claim', 1886.

One of the most significant repositories visited by the members of the Project was the Library of the Society of Friends in Dublin. There is substantial material relating to Tipperary in the collections housed here. The Tipperary Monthly Meeting provides a List of Births and Burials from 1839 to 1850. There is also much to be gleaned from these collections on the business interests of Quakers in Tipperary and there are examples of wills and marriage settlements relating to Members of the Society of Friends who had resided in the county. For instance, Elizabeth Dudley of Roscrea, by her will 1799, bequeathed an annuity to Leinster Provincial Schools.

The National Archives of Ireland also has much to interest the historian of Tipperary. Among the 'Lismore and Related Documents' held by that repository are the following:

A report of the East Tipperary Courts, 28 February 1922;

A report of the Fethard Parish Court, 30 April 1921;

A report of the Fethard Parish Court, 30 September 1921;

A report of the Fethard Parish Courts, no date;

A report of the Grangemockler Parish Court, 31 October 1921;

A report of the Grangemockler Parish Court, November 1921;

A report of the Grangemockler Parish Court, December 1921;

A report of the Grangemockler Parish Court, January 1922;

A report of the Grangemockler Parish Court, 28 February 1922;



A report of the Grangemoockler Parish Court, 31 March 1922;  
 A report of the Grangemoockler Parish Court, 30 April 1922;  
 A report of the Grangemoockler Parish Court, May 1921;  
 A report of the Killenaule Parish Court, 1921;  
 A report of the Killenaule Parish Court, 12 March 1922;  
 A report of the Killenaule Parish Court, 12 September 1922;  
 A report of the Killenaule Parish Court, 1921;  
 A report of the Killenaule Parish Court, 1921/22;  
 A report of the Killenaule Parish Court, 29 January [?];  
 A report of the Killenaule Parish Court, 31 September 1921;  
 A report of the Killusty Parish Court, 31 September 1921.

A repository which researchers might not think of using is the Irish Film Archive in Dublin. This also has a number of items relating to Tipperary. The Tipperary Parish Guild Film Unit made a film of the opening of the Canon Hayes Community Youth Centre and its activities from 1962-1965. Amongst the manuscripts in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland we found a copy of an indenture made between George Williams, Baggot Street, Dublin and his wife, Maria Williams and Margaret Evans of Lismoylan, County Tipperary, regarding the assignment of moiety of premises in the city of Armagh, 1833. Similarly there is a collection of about 80 documents comprising the papers of the Waller family of Castle Waller, County Tipperary, 1759-1873. This collection includes letters to female family members; for instance, there is a bundle of ten letters from H. B. Bloomfield to 'Ricarda', mainly concerning her desire to find a suitable appointment as a governess, c1850.

### **Omagh Folkpark Centre**

The Centre for Migration Studies at the Ulster American Folkpark in Omagh is also worth investigating. The Centre has an emigration database of about 26,000 transcripts of primary source documents relating to Irish emigration to North America (the United States and Canada) in the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The database can be searched by name, subject or date and contains a range of material from emigrant letters, passenger lists, newspaper articles and advertisements, official government reports, family papers and extracts from books and periodicals.

The material on the database has been collected from a number of repositories including, for example, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland; the Linen Hall Library, Belfast; Queen's University Library, Belfast; and Central Library, Belfast. The project is ongoing, with documents being added on a regular basis. The database can be accessed in the library of the Centre for Migration Studies at the Ulster American Folk Park, Omagh and in the Local Studies Departments of the Education and Library Boards in Armagh, Ballymena, Ballynahinch, Belfast, Enniskillen, Londonderry and Omagh.

When we noted this material in the Centre the emigration database included: 45 personal journals or diaries of emigrants or those who commented on the emigrant experience; 2,576 letters written by Irish emigrants, including letters between Irish emigrants in America; 319 documents relating to Irish families or landed estates with an emigrant connection; 862 miscellaneous letters relating to emigration; 115 letters written to Irish emigrants in America; 3,250 newspaper articles relating to Irish emigration; 446 official documents from state or semi-



state bodies relating to emigration; 15 items of folklore relating to emigration; 1,417 records of the births, deaths or marriages of Irish emigrants; 12 wills of Irish emigrants; 7,280 shipping advertisements; 152 extracts of proceedings of the Houses of Parliament relating to Irish emigration and 3,415 passenger lists, listing Irish emigrants travelling to North America, recording those who were born or died on ship and listing all passengers by name with age, occupation, where they sailed from and nationality, mainly dating from the 1790s onwards, but with 4 lists dating from 1700. The material available includes:

Transcripts of the emigrant letters of the Fitzgerald family, County Tipperary, 1829-1907. These letters include, for example, a letter from Eliza Fitzgerald, New York, United States to her sister, Mary Fitzgerald Cahill and others, Quebec, Lower Canada referring to the death of their brother, 28 September 1847; a letter from Eliza Fitzgerald, New York to her sister, Mary Fitzgerald Cahill, Quebec referring to her sister's ill-treatment of her and family affairs, 6 June 1847. These letters have been copied from the originals in private hands in San Diego, California, United States.

The above examples are only a fraction of the items relating to Tipperary listed on the database and hardly do that database justice. All aspects of life can be uncovered in these sources.

One of the joys of conducting the survey was having the opportunity to travel around the country and to work with archivists, librarians and other individuals on collections of papers. There is a huge amount of material relating to women's history in various repositories and in private hands. Indeed, through the Project we have encouraged some organisations and individuals to donate their papers to a repository for safe keeping. It was clear that in some of these cases the historical value of the papers was not recognised by the holders of papers. We hope also through our work that we have alerted individuals to the importance of papers in their care and the need to look after these items for the future.

While conducting our survey we saw papers held in the best and worst of conditions. We listed material that was kept in attics and basements. We climbed into roof spaces, tread rotting boards, gingerly stepped over dead vermin and in some cases met what looked like still very much alive creatures! There seems to be a great need to invest money in the care of our archives at all levels, but particularly those which are still housed in damp conditions, which appear neglected because few researchers either express interest in the material or are aware of its existence.

In many cases the material has little if anything to do with the day-to-day business of an institution or organisation and tends to be neglected for that reason. It seems clear that more archivists are needed to advise and assist in the preservation of records. It is also vital that individuals, organisations and institutions are made even more aware of the historical significance of the material they hold that relates to their past enterprises. There is still a large quantity of material being destroyed or 'cleared out', lost forever to researchers.

The material we did succeed in uncovering for the survey exceeded all our expectations. The variety, richness, quality and quantity of information revealed is astonishing. We have, for instance, listed the archives of convents, county councils, psychiatric hospitals, libraries, museums and public and private institutions and organisations. We have listed all known poor law records with the exception of those for Counties Offaly and Cork.

What became so obvious from our survey was that women were to be found in almost all official, public and private documents. They are spoken of in institutional records such as the



minutes of a poor law board or the committal forms of a nineteenth-century lunatic asylum; they recorded the functionings of their convents, institutions and landed estates in finance ledgers, reports and correspondence; they were affected by the financial constraints imposed by local authorities such as county councils; they were tenants whose payments were noted in thousands of rentals.

Women also recorded their personal lives in letters, diaries, journals and common place books; they painted, stitched, embroidered and wrote music, plays, poems and novels. All of these sources, and more, are listed in this *Directory*.

## FOOTNOTES

1. Jean Agnew (ed.), *The Drennan-McTier Letters, 1776-1819*, 3 volumes, Dublin, Irish Manuscripts Commission/Women's History Project, 1998, 1999. These can be purchased directly from the office of The Women's History Project, 73 Merrion Square, Dublin or can be ordered through any bookshop.
2. *A Directory of Sources for Women's History in Ireland* can be purchased in CD-ROM format for Windows '98 from the Women's History Project for £32.50, which includes postage. The information on this CD will be available, free of charge, from July 2000 to anyone connected to the World Wide Web.