

MS 64 Cuala Press Card Collection

About the collection:

A collection of cards representing some of the rarest of Cuala Press productions from the 1910s to the 1950s. Printed in outline from zinc blocks, many cards are individually hand-coloured by Elizabeth Corbet Yeats, or by other Cuala staff under her supervision; many of the cards have the quality of original watercolours. Commissioned from leading contemporary Irish artists, many of them women, the designs show typical west of Ireland landscapes or scenes from the Christmas story. All are printed on Irish paper specially made for the Cuala Press at the Saggart mill near Dublin. Although large numbers of these cards were issued, they are by their very nature ephemeral and very few examples remain, especially in this condition. A collection of the finest work of this distinguished hand-press, run by the Yeats sisters with the help of their brothers Jack and W.B.

Purchased from De Búrca Rare Books in January 2018.



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MS 64/1 Cuala Press Christmas cards

14 cards and prints. Mainly Christmas scenes, with designs by, among others, Elizabeth Corbet Yeats, Beatrice Elvery RHA, Victor Brown and Elizabeth Rivers. Verse authors include Susan Langstaff Mitchell and George Wither. Cards are unused and in very good condition; colouring fresh and clean throughout. Two of the cards are by Dolmen Press.

MS 64/1/1 Old time Christmas

- a. "Hand-coloured card Cuala Press Dublin, Ireland – No 82"

Forest scene with female in foreground.

Illustrated by Anne Price with verse by L.H.Brindley

177 x 117 mm; single folded card.

- b. Card is same as above but colours differ.

MS 64/1/2 Christmas greetings

"Hand-coloured card Cuala Press Dublin, Ireland – No 93"

Illustrated by Fr Jack Hanlon.

140 x 115 mm; single folded card.

MS 64/1/3 As on the night before this happy morn

"Hand-coloured card Cuala Press Dublin, Ireland – No 94"

Shepherds watching star.

Illustrated by Dorothy Blackham with verse by George Wither.

180 x 117 mm; single folded card.

MS 64/1/4 Christmas Greetings

"Hand printed card Cuala Press Dublin, Ireland. – No 95"

Uncoloured nativity scene of shepherds bowing before the baby Jesus.

140 x 140mm; single folded card; black and white.

MS 64/1/5 Carol

"Hand printed card Cuala Press Dublin, Ireland. No 96".

Uncoloured religious scene with angels' heads surrounding Mother and Child.

185 x 120mm. Single folded card; black and white.

MS 64/1/6 Spirit of Christmas

"Hand coloured card Cuala Press Dublin Ireland. No. 1"

Illustrated by Elizabeth Corbet Yeats with verse by L.H. Brindley

185 x 120 mm; single folded card.

MS 64/1/7 Nodlaig

“Hand coloured card Cuala Press Dublin Ireland. No 101”

185 x 123 mm; single folded card.

MS 64/1/8 Saint Brigid

a. “Hand coloured card Cuala Press Dublin Ireland. No 102”

185 x 123 mm; single folded card.

b. Card is same above but colours differ.

MS 64/1/9 Who can bring back the magic of the story

“Hand coloured card Cuala Press Dublin Ireland – No 120”

Verse by Susan Langstaff Mitchell

175 x 113 mm; single folded card.

MS 64/1/10 Lo, now we have heard

“Hand printed card Cuala Press Dublin Ireland. No 143”

Uncoloured nativity scene. Illustrated by Elizabeth Rivers.

184 x 120 mm; single folded card; black and white.

MS 64/1/11 A Christmas letter

“A Christmas letter to the Most Illustrious the Contessina Alagia Degli Aldobrandeschi on the Via de’Martelli, Firenze Christmas Eve, Anno Domini 1513”

The letter purports to be from Fra Giovanni.

“Wood engraving by Elizabeth Rivers Printed at the Dolmen Press Dublin Ireland 604”

The card is signed in blue ink on back “Love from Mother Christmas 1960”

180 x 113 mm; single folded card.

MS 64/1/12 Guardian Angel

“linocut Elizabeth Rivers”

“The Dolmen Press Dublin Ireland 611”

185 x 120 mm; single folded card.

MS 64/2 Cuala Press prints and cards

23 hand-coloured and 13 uncoloured cards and prints (including several duplicates) c1910-1970. Cards are in various sizes, small and large format and all are in very good condition. Designs by Jack B. Yeats, his wife Mary C. Yeats, his sister Elizabeth Corbet Yeats, Beatrice Elvery RHA, Hilda Roberts, Dorothy Blackham, and other artists. Two of the cards are published by Cluna Studio Dublin.

MS 64/2/1 From my mountain top I view

- a. "Hand coloured card Cuala Press Dublin Ireland. No 32"
Illustrated by Elizabeth Corbet Yeats with verse by George Russell (AE)
185 x 120 mm; single folded card
- b. Card is same as above but colours differ.

MS 64/2/2 Elizabeth Wyndham, Petworth bookplate

Black and white print. Illustration by Jack Butler Yeats. Man with horse and cart on a rural road.

Also enclosed: Sláinte postal label designed by Elizabeth Corbet Yeats and issued in 1909 for the Women's National Health Association (WNHA).

MS 64/2/3 Be glad of life!

Hand coloured print. Landscape scene, with farm and house in background, and woman on donkey.

Illustration by Dorothy Blackham [?] with verse by Henry van Dyke.

127 x 185 mm

MS 64/2/4 In green ways

- a. "Hand coloured card Cuala Press Dublin Ireland. No 76"
Landscape and cottage. Illustrated by Dorothy Blackham with verse by James Stephens.
183 x 120 mm; single folded card.
- b. Card is same as above but colours differ.

MS 64/2/5 Black stag

"Hand coloured card Cuala Press Dublin Ireland. – No 29"

Image of a black stag with the text "Wishes Sincere" beneath.

[Illustrated by Eileen C. Peet]

171 x 116 mm; single folded card.

MS 64/2/6 Good humour and good nature

"Hand coloured card Cuala Press Dublin Ireland. No 7"

Image of two women in fine clothes holding a parasol and bouquet of flowers.

Illustrated by Anne Price with verse by Charles Lamb.

185 x 123 mm

MS 64/2/7 Letters of Mrs Delany 1726

“Hand coloured card Cuala Press Dublin, Ireland. – No 74”

Image of woman at a writing desk in Georgian dress.

Illustrated by Anne Price, words by Mary Delany.

178 x 116 mm; single folded card.

MS 64/2/8 Girl with flowers

“Cuala Press, Dublin”.

Hand coloured card. Illustrated by Jack B. Yeats. Girl in barefoot holding a bouquet of flowers above her head before an oval mirror. Rural landscape with sea in background. Untitled.

140 x 165 mm; single folded card.

MS 64/2/9 The grand road

- a. “Hand coloured card Cuala Press Dublin Ireland. No 54”. Landscape image.

Illustrated by Eileen Constance Booth with verse by Eva Gore-Booth.

185 x 120 mm; single folded card.

- b. Card is same as above but colours differ.

MS 64/2/10 Mourn not, though sorrowful and dark thou art

- a. “Hand coloured card Cuala Press Dublin, Ireland. – No 16”. Mountain scene with angel.

Illustrated by Jack B. Yeats with verse by Susan L. Mitchell.

127 x 156 mm; single folded card.

- b. Card is same as above but colours differ.

MS 64/2/11 Who calls me from the milestone track

“Hand coloured card Cuala Press Dublin Ireland. – No 127”. Woman with children in a rural landscape. Illustrated by Elizabeth C. Yeats with verse by Susan L. Mitchell

177 x 116 mm; single folded card.

MS 64/2/12 Mother of my yearning

“Hand coloured card Cuala Press Dublin, Ireland. – No 108”. Cottage in a rural landscape.

Illustrated by Elizabeth C. Yeats with verse by Stephen Gwynn.

128 x 153 mm; single folded card.

MS 64/2/13 Stone tower

Uncoloured print of a stone tower. Illustrated by Dorothy Blackham [?].

115 x 87 mm.

MS 64/2/14 Greetings

“Hand coloured card Cuala Press Dublin Ireland. No 30”

Two village women in conversation with cottages in background.

185 x 122 mm; single folded card.

MS 64/2/15 The bog road

- a. "Hand coloured card Cuala Press Dublin, Ireland. – No 105"

Image of a pedlar dressed in rags in a rural landscape. Illustration by Jack B. Yeats.

108 x 178 mm; single folded card.

- b. Uncoloured print. Illustration as above.

Size of image is the same as above card but paper measures 167 x 216 mm.

MS 64/2/16 Dublin quays

- a. "Hand coloured card Cuala Press Dublin, Ireland. – No 199"

A young sailor lad coming up the gangplank to the quayside. A monkey sits on his sea bag (which also bears the artist's signature) and the sailor carries a cage containing a parrot. Seated on a bollard is an old man with a scythe and hourglass. Illustrated by Jack B. Yeats.

176 x 114 mm; single folded card.

- b. Uncoloured version of the print above. Illustrated by Jack B. Yeats.

206 x 153 mm

MS 64/2/17 A little rest and then the world is full of work to do

Uncoloured print depicting a farmer in his cart heading towards a cottage by the sea.

Illustrated by ECP. 230 x 177 mm

MS 64/2/18 Let us sing and dance

"Hand coloured card Cuala Press Dublin, Ireland. – No 147"

Card has been left uncoloured. Fiddler on wall with children dancing and cottage in the background. Illustrated by Dorothy Blackham with verse by James Stephens.

170 x 157 mm; single folded card.

MS 64/2/19 O'er the mountain heights declining

"Hand coloured card Cuala Press Dublin, Ireland. – No 136"

Rural scene featuring a stone wall, tree and mountains. Illustrated by Dorothy Blackham.

180 x 152 mm; single folded card.

MS 64/2/20 The jockey

Hand coloured print, illustrated by Jack B. Yeats.

165 x 216 mm

MS 64/2/21 Weather-wise

Hand coloured print, illustrated by Dorothy Blackham [?]. Illustration of the four winds, represented by angels, blowing at a weathervane. Cuala Press.

230 x 178 mm

MS 64/2/22 Ireland, O Ireland!

Uncoloured print. Verse by Stephen. Cuala Press.

203 x 164 mm

MS 64/2/23 An old slave

“Reprinted from ‘The Broadside’.... Cuala Press Dublin.”

Uncoloured print, illustrated by Jack B. Yeats. 2 copies

- a. 280 x 212 mm
- b. 295 x 210 mm

MS 64/2/24 Island people

Hand coloured print. Illustrated by Jack B. Yeats [?]

210 x 300 mm

MS 64/2/25 The Fiddler

Uncoloured print, illustrated by Jack B. Yeats. 3 copies. Each copy differs in colour of paper and dimensions of paper.

- a. 230 x 178 mm
- b. 155 x 115 mm
- c. 180 x 138 mm

MS 64/2/26 College Green, Dublin

“Hand coloured card Cuala Press Dublin, Ireland. – No 115”. Card has been left uncoloured.

180 x 150 mm; single folded card.

MS 64/2/27 Beannact

Hand coloured card. “Cluna Studio Made in Ireland”

Handwritten note in blue biro on inside of card: “With every good wish for 1952 to Mrs Cowell, Miss Kelly & John from Mary and Todd [?]”.

110 x 130 mm; single folded card.

MS 64/2/28 May you always find three welcomes

Hand coloured print. Verse by S. Le Brocquy with illuminated initial letter. Cluna Studio Dublin. Cream postcard pasted onto green card.

165 x 191 mm

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