



RCSI

Leading the world
to better health

Sale and disposal of collections: evidence-based decision making and professional choices

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LIBER, Dublin. June 28, 2019

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Outline

1. RCSI Antiquarian Library
2. Challenges
3. Evidence
4. Proposal
5. Disposal
6. Impact
7. Professional issues
8. Takeaways



RCSI in numbers

WORLD RANKINGS



Top

2%

Times Higher Education
World University Rankings
2018

INVESTMENT



€80m

Invested in RCSI's 26 York Street, home to Europe's most advanced clinical simulation facility

€11m

Invested in extension of RCSI's Smurfit Building at Beaumont Hospital

RESEARCH



No.1

Highest research paper impact (citation rate) in Ireland

Double

RCSI field-weighted citation compared to world average

INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK



International student profile:
Students from over **60** countries

4 International campuses:
Bahrain, Dubai, and Malaysia (2)

Alumni:
17,000 in 97 countries



STUDENTS IN IRELAND

3,781 Registered Students

2,259 Undergraduate students (Medicine, Physiotherapy and Pharmacy)

1,041 Postgraduate students (Masters, MD, PhD)

457 Surgical and emergency medicine trainees

STAFF



1,129

RCSI Antiquarian Library



RCSI Library 1947

- Antiquarian books elsewhere
- Condition: poor
- Value: unknown
- Archives unique by definition
- Investment & returns: disproportionate



There still remains the basement area beneath the main library where the Arthur Jacob Collection was housed. Many hours have been spent sorting this collection and moving it temporarily to a drier area, but about half of it has already been thrown out as many volumes were in such a state of decomposition from damp etc. that they disintegrated upon touch. The condition of the leather/suede bindings of many of the remaining volumes is such that, unless they soon receive expert attention, they too will have to be discarded, as it would seem that a slow-eating fungus is attacking them.

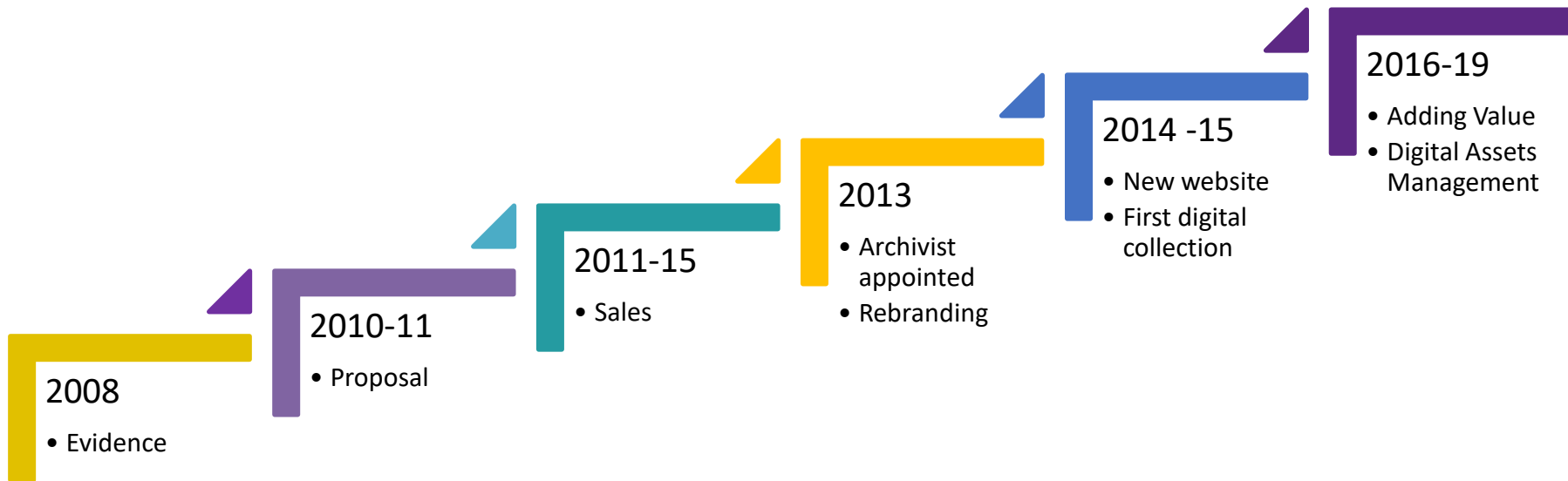
Library Annual Report, 1982/1983



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Timeline



Evidence 2008-10



QUICK CAT
1.0

QUICK CAT
1P

2K

2L

3M

3P

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FINE ART AUCTIONEERS AND VALUERS

26 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2
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E-mail: info@adam.ie www.adam.ie

Our ref: NN/YB/B5316

Your ref:

INVENTORY & VALUATION

OF

THE ANTIQUARIAN LIBRARY

AT

The Royal College of Surgeons Library
Mercers Hospital
Mercer Street
Dublin 2

Made Oct 2008

To Order Of:

Ms Kate Kelly
The Librarian

To Advise As To Value For Insurance Purposes

Members: Brian Cogh PRICK, FGA VI, FAVA
John O'Mahoney, FGA VI, FAVA, GCMIA VI
David Butler FRS, A.C.A.
Associate Director: Eugene O'Connell B.A., Institute B.A., Hon.2



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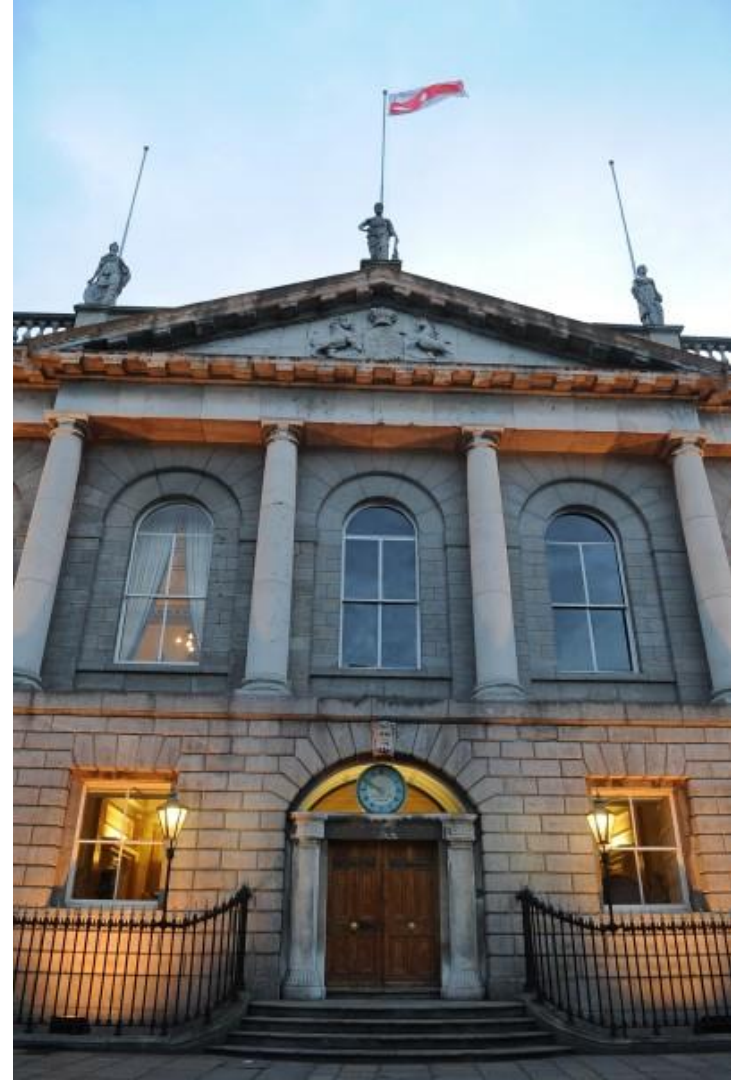


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To RCSI President & Council
January 2011:

1. Divest/dispose through sale and donation
2. Ring fence proceeds for the conservation & preservation of the RCSI archives and records
3. Future collection focus:
 - ✓ RCSI connection
 - ✓ history of Irish surgery
 - ✓ history of medicine in Ireland



Travel, Atlases, Maps and Natural History

LONDON 10 MAY 2011



Sotheby's

EST. 1744

Natural History

1

Agassiz, Louis. *Recherches sur les poissons fossiles* [with: *Monographie des poissons fossiles de vieux grès rouge ou système Dévonien*]. Neuchâtel: Imprimerie de Petitjean, 1833-1844

FIRST EDITION, 12 volumes, 4to (321 x 245mm.) and folio (290 x 443mm.), 436 tinted lithographed plates (only of 437), contemporary half calf, inkstamps of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, [Nissen ZBI 44 and 42], volume 3 lacks plate 7, Pvol.5 lacking list of plates, some soiling and spotting, bindings worn

Compiled over ten years, this work established Agassiz's reputation in the scientific community and his popular celebrity which led to his relocation to the United States. The observations and new schemas of ichthyological classification (partly based on the work of his mentor Cuvier), along with the many magnificent illustrations of fossilized fish, struck a chord at a time of general interest in geology, palaeontology and evolutionary biology. Though he was the first to identify embryonic recapitulation, Agassiz was strictly anti-Darwinian, suggesting that there was no evidence of evolutionary change in the fossil record.

£ 4,000-6,000 € 4,650-7,000



3



Lyon & Turnbull 2011-15



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Archivist Appointed 2013





Digital Heritage Collections



The Heritage Collections of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland contain unique material relating to the history of medicine. The collections touch on medical, social, historical and personal events that have taken place over the last 250 years and include books, pamphlets, portraiture, medical instruments and furniture. See Heritage Collections for more information.

RCSI Digital Heritage Collections allows you to access, browse and explore a growing collection of online resources including:

- Online Heritage Collections Catalogue
- The Emily Winifred Dickson archive
- The 1916 commemorative exhibition 'RCSI Surgeons & Insurgents'
- Instruments and Innovations

Our Digital Heritage collections are currently expanding in content so watch this space!



Welcome to the Heritage Collections of the RCSI

"Man is a history-making creature who can neither repeat his past nor leave it behind".

- W.H Auden

<p>Your visit</p> <p>The RCSI Heritage Collections are housed in the old Mercer Hospital.</p> <p>Read more >></p>	<p>Donations</p> <p>We are always delighted to receive donations and new material.</p> <p>Read more >></p>	<p>Collections</p> <p>Our extensive collections cover manuscripts, medical instruments.</p> <p>Read more >></p>	<p>Latest Heritage Blog Posts</p> <p>Women on Walls at RCSI: 8 new exciting portraits added to RCSI Heritage Art Collections</p> <p>Former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson receives Emily Winifred Dickson Award 2019</p> <p>Research Summer School - What a library project looks like...2019 project opportunities now open!</p> <p>RCSI celebrates Nelson Mandela's 100 birthday</p> <p>Shared Symbolism - Saint Patrick, Ireland and the RCSI College Arms</p> <p>Preserving RCSI's Royal Charter & Seal. A closer look.</p> <p>"12 days of Christmas" featuring George Walsh stained glass windows, Albert Theatre, 123 St Stephens Green, RCSI.</p> <p>Outreach in RCSI's Heritage Collections - Explore Your Archive 2017</p> <p>Dublin Festival of History 2017</p> <p>#Heritage Week 2017: The RCSI Museum - a treasure trove of Natural History Collections</p>
<p>RCSI people</p> <p>Find out about some of the most influential people involved in RCSI's history.</p> <p>Read more >></p>	<p>Catalogues</p> <p>Use our online catalogues for your research needs.</p> <p>Read more >></p>	<p>Collaborations</p> <p>How RCSI Heritage Collections are making connections.</p> <p>Read more >></p>	<p>Links</p> <p>RCSI Homepage</p> <p>RCSI Library Homepage</p> <p>RCSI 1916 Commemorative Programme</p>
<p>Other resources</p> <p>What weird and wonderful delights can be found in our collections?</p> <p>Read more >></p>	<p>Contact us</p> <p>Contact the Heritage Collections to arrange a visit.</p> <p>Read more >></p>		

Margaret Skiwider
1893-1971



RCSI
Euphan Montgomerie Maxwell
1887-1964

Euphan Montgomerie Maxwell was born in Dublin in 1887. She was the first female surgeon to be admitted to the RCSI in 1914. She was a member of the RCSI from 1914 to 1964. She was a member of the RCSI from 1914 to 1964. She was a member of the RCSI from 1914 to 1964.



RCSI

SURGEONS & Insurgents

RCSI AND THE EASTER RISING

St Stephen's Green and its grand houses are a reminder of the splendour of Georgian Dublin. The Green was laid out during the eighteenth century expansion of the city. Initially for the private use of noblemen and businessmen on the Green, including RCSI, it was opened to the public on 1st July, who despite their joint objections. Its site is laid out around lower and low level buildings with lower level lining the perimeter.

From the south, St Stephen's Green was an important junction for several major access routes into the city. Broadside (along Fleet Street), Farnborough was Hanover Street, and Raglan Street converge here and had the pleasure of the 1916 Rising brought it to a halt and strategic location. Taking control of the Green would allow the insurgents to impede British army reinforcements entering in the city centre.

At 10pm on Easter Monday, Mr Miller, Registrar of the College, phoned James Duncan, the College Porter, and instructed him to lock the doors. Obeying to the letter, and from then on, John Freeman Keogh, a member of the College staff, served for his daily mail. Duncan agreed to find a way slightly to explain to Keogh that the College was closed. At that moment, Markham was leading a group towards RCSI in the hope of taking it. He seized the opportunity and forced his way past Duncan and into the College. He was accompanied by Frank Robinson, Fred Ryan (who was shot dead on Wickham's), John Joe Hendrick, Lily Fairman, Daniel O'Leary and Mary (May) Hyland. James Duncan and his family were locked into a small room in his quarters. RCSI was now under the control of the insurgents.



RCSI
Thomas Myles
1857-1937



Thomas Myles was a member of the RCSI from 1887 to 1937. He was a member of the RCSI from 1887 to 1937. He was a member of the RCSI from 1887 to 1937.



RCSI
Sir Charles Alexander Cameron
1830-1921

Sir Charles Alexander Cameron was a member of the RCSI from 1857 to 1921. He was a member of the RCSI from 1857 to 1921. He was a member of the RCSI from 1857 to 1921.



Dr Sir Charles Cameron
C. B.
James Cameron
Walter



- Research Summer School: Undergraduate student program (8 weeks)
- Under the supervision/guidance of an RCSI Principal Investigator (PI)
- RCSI Library- First participation



The Spanish Flu pandemic: A century of medical science and public health response

Speakers:

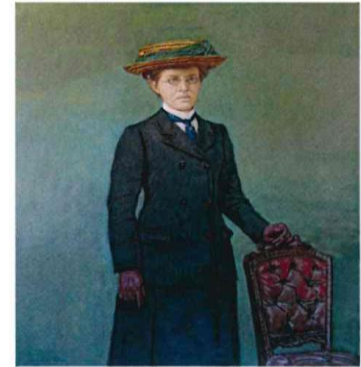
Dr Ida Milne, Lecturer of European History, History Department, Carlow College
Stacking the Coffins - The impact of the 1918-19 influenza on Ireland

Dr Karen Burns, Consultant Clinical Microbiologist, Beaumont Hospital.
We know what you did last winter

Vikneswaran Raj & Kate Moran,
RCSI Research Summer School 2018

21.11.2018
5-7pm
Albert Theatre
123 SSG

2018-19



#WOMEN
ON WALLS

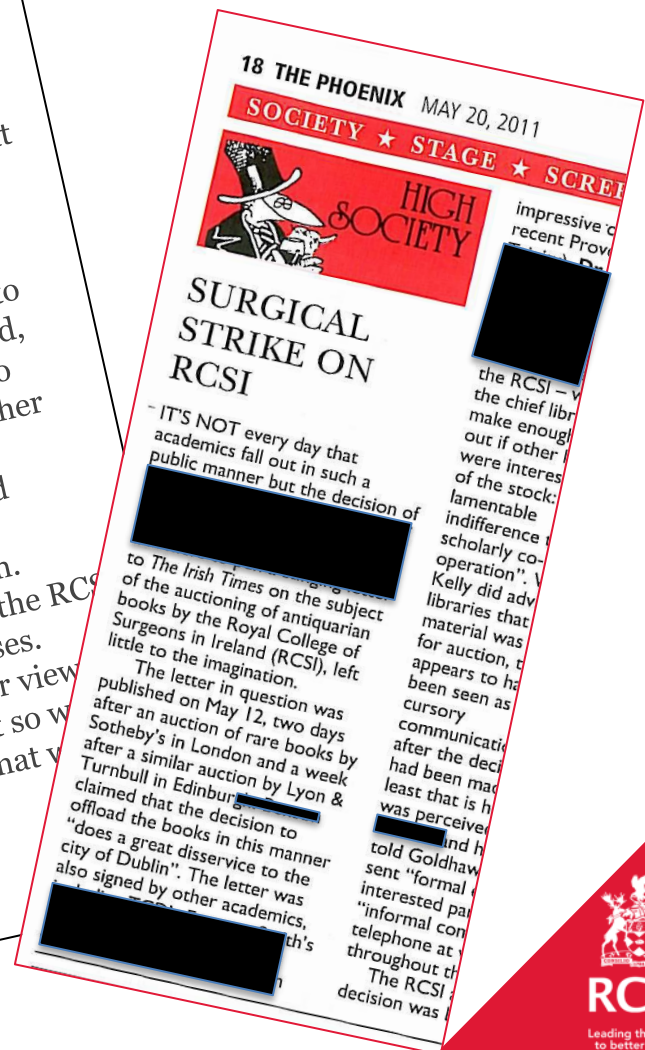
accenture



- Ethics
- Due diligence
- Judgement
- Trust

Madam, – The decision of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) to sell off the vast majority of their early printed books by way of auctions in Great Britain does a great disservice to the city of Dublin. It greatly diminishes its importance as a centre for historical research.

Apart from transferring some textbooks to the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland, the authorities at the RCSI appear not to have made any attempt to find out if other libraries in the city were interested in acquiring any of the stock at an agreed valuation. This shows a lamentable indifference to scholarly co-operation. We fully recognise the legal right of the RCSI to dispose of its property as it chooses. We wish that it had taken a broader view of the national interest. Dublin is not so well endowed with research libraries that we can afford these losses. – Yours, etc,
Irish Times May 11, 2011



Takeaways

Prepare and
plan

Use the right
agent

Communicate
with
stakeholders
& public

Ring-fence
the proceeds

Record &
photograph
the process



RCSI

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Thank You! Any Questions?

