

OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

The Nan Quinn Collection

N76

The National Dance Archive of Ireland University of Limerick

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Reference Code: IE 2135 N76 **Title:** The Nan Quinn Collection

Dates of Creation: c. 1895-c. 1996 (predominantly 1940s-1970s)

Level of Description: Fonds

Extent and Medium: 6 standard boxes, 1 outsize item (92 files)

CONTEXT

Name of Creator: Quinn, Nan (1899-1990).

Biographical History Nan Quinn lived in Bessbrook, county Armagh, Northern Ireland and was introduced to Irish dancing by a nun in Bessbrook Convent in c.1911. She established a traditional Irish dancing school in Bessbrook in 1933. She was a member of Cumann na mBan and a committed republican and was highly regarded in traditional Irish dance and republican circles.

Archival History: Unknown.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Donated to the National Dance Archive of Ireland by Tom Quinn on 21 October 2015.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Scope and Content: The collection comprises mainly paper documents relating to Nan Quinn's life and her interest in traditional Irish music and dance, religion, republicanism, and needlework. The archive contains an assortment of artefacts relating to her dancing activities, including trophies, medals, and film reels. Also included in the collection are a framed certificate and medals presented to Nan Quinn in recognition of her contribution to the Irish republican movement.

Appraisal, Destruction and Scheduling Information: Photocopies of original newspaper cutting contained in the archive and one original newspaper cutting post-dating Nan Quinn's life were destroyed. All other records have been retained.

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

System of Arrangement: The material has been divided into seven series reflecting the life and interests of Nan Quinn. Series 1 comprises biographical notes. Series 2 comprises material relating to Irish dance, music and folklore including programmes, notes, publications, sound recordings, medals and trophies. Series 3 comprises manuscript notes and printed material of religious nature. Series 4 comprises material relating to Irish republicanism including correspondence, medals, certificates, and printed matter. Series 5 contains needlework magazines and patterns. Series 6 comprises press cuttings relating to politics, music, dance, religion and republican events. Series 7 comprises a range of photographs primarily relating to dance, religion and family.

CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE

Conditions Governing Access: Unrestricted access to all items.

Conditions Governing Reproduction: Standard copyright regulations apply to all items. For photocopying or reproducing material, please consult with the staff.

Language/ Scripts of Material: English, some items in Irish

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Paper documents mostly in good condition.

Finding Aids: A hard copy of the descriptive catalogue is available at the Special Collections Department, Glucksman Library, University of Limerick.

DESCRIPTION CONTROL

Archivist's Note: Papers arranged and described by Seán Cafferkey under the supervision of Anna-Maria Hajba.

Rules or Conventions: This description follows guidelines based on *ISAD(G)* 2nd edition, 2000, *Irish Guidelines for Archival Description*, 2009, *National Council on Archives: Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names*, 1997, and *EAP Guidance on Data Protection for Archive Services*, 2018.

Date of Description: March 2019.

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The Nan Quinn Collection

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES 1

9 October 1990

N76/1/1 Letter from Tomás Ó Faircheallaigh, president, The Irish Dancing

Commission, 6 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2 to Tom Quinn, extending the

Commission's sympathy on the death of Nan Quinn.

1 item

[c.1990]

N76/1/2Typescript obituary of Nan Quinn by Tomás Ó Faircheallaigh with

associated manuscript notes.

2 items

Also see N76/2/2/4

2 IRISH DANCE, MUSIC, AND FOLKLORE

Also see **N76/3/3/1**

2.1 Leaflets, Flyers, and Programmes

1950

N76/2/1/1 Leaflets containing the results of dance competitions at Feis Muirtheimhe

[Memorial Festival]. Caitlin Ni Chriochain, Carrysfort Training College,

Blackrock, Dublin adjudicated.

2 items

30 September 1971

N76/2/1/2 Official programme of Comórtaisí Rince Fé Ríalacha, Fleadh Dhún Dealgan

[official dance competitions, Dundalk Festival] organised by An Coimisiún Le Rincí Gaelach [The Irish Dancing Commission].

1 item

1974:1993-1994

N76/2/1/3Programmes of Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne [Irish Dancing World

Championships] promoted by An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha [The Irish

Dancing Commission].

3 items

March 1988

N76/2/1/4

Bilingual programme of events for Feis Mhuirtheimhne Dún Dealgan [Dundalk Memorial Festival]. Included in the programme are details of events concerning Irish language [teanga]; recitation [aithriseoíreachta]; traditional music [ceol traidisiúata]; dance [rince]; and drama [drámaíocht].

2 items

February 1994

N76/2/1/5

Programme of competitions relating to Oireachtas Rince na hÉireann [Irish Dancing Championships] promoted by An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha [The Irish Dancing Commission].

1 item

2.2 Manuscript and Typescript Notes

[c. 1930s-1950?]

N76/2/2/1

Manuscripts detailing the steps, movements and dance positions relating to the 4 Hand Jig Dance; Armagh Quadrille; and The Crossover Jig. Also a manuscript note from 'Mary' to 'Tom' about the Armagh Set based on the Quadrilles, with references to Dani Hathaway, Mick O'Callaghan, and 'the fiddler Savage'. Also a music score entitled *Betty Black 8-Hand Dance*.

5 items

28 November 1971

N76/2/2/2

Short manuscript by Nan Quinn entitled Musing in Retrospect on Irish Dancing in South Armagh. The document makes reference to her early introduction to Irish dancing, the establishment of her dancing school in 1933, her role in promoting and expanding Irish dancing, and her experience of collecting and preserving traditional Irish dances. Dances mentioned include The Three Tunes, Trip To The Cottage, and The Sweets Of May, which she discovered in Slieve Gullion and Mullaghbawn, Newry, county Down. With a typescript of same.

2 items

[c. 1970s?]

N76/2/2/3

Short manuscript by Nan Quinn entitled *Irish Dancing in South Armagh* about her experience of Irish dance in Bessbrook, county Armagh and its role in promoting Gaelic culture in South Armagh in the early twentieth century. Particular Ceili dances, dancing styles, and people involved in Irish dance are mentioned. Jigs collected following a chance encounter with a Company of Irish Volunteers from Belfast are documented. With a typescript of same. Also includes associated manuscript notes.

3 items

[c. 1996?]

N76/2/2/4

Typescript entitled *The History of Irish Dancing* by the Very Reverend Anthony Davis, P.P. Dromara. The article includes a short biography of Nan Quinn, her early introduction to Irish dancing, the establishment of the Nan Quinn dancing school in 1933, and her role in collecting and preserving dances from Slieve Gullion, and Mullaghbawn, Newry, county Down.

6 pp.

[c. 1970s?]

N76/2/2/5

Manuscript lyrics of songs or poems entitled What Will You Do Love; Our Flag; and The Country I'm Leaving Behind.

3 items

[c. 1970s?]

N76/2/2/6

Red notebook containing a list of Ulster slang words and sayings.

26 pp.

2.3 Publications

(c. 1974)

N76/2/3/1

Rince: The Annual of Irish Dancing.

32 pp.

(c. 1987-1990)

N76/2/3/2

Issues no. 59, 60, 61, 66, and 68 of *Céim – Iris Oifigiúil An Choimisiún le Rincí Gaelach* [Official Journal of the Irish Dancing Commission].

5 items

2.4 <u>Correspondence</u>

22 September 1949

N76/2/4/1

Letter from Patricia Mulholland, Mulholland School of Dancing, 17 Newington Street, Belfast, to Nan thanking her for dance information and enquiring about the amount owed for same.

2 pp.

12 September 1972

N76/2/4/2

Letter from Nan's cousin 'Patsy', 19 South Curtis Avenue, Alhambra, California, 91801 USA, apologising for not visiting Nan while home in Ireland because she was 'too scared to go North'.

1 p.

6 July 1973

N76/2/4/3 Letter from Nan Quinn to 'Roisin' regarding late payment of dancing shoes.

1 p.

9 March 1979

N76/2/4/4 Letter from Tom [Ó Faircheallaigh?], the Irish Dancing Commission to Nan requesting an article contribution to the Golden Jubilee Souvenir Magazine.

2 pp.

2.5 Medals and Trophies

1928:1941:[1950?]

N76/2/5/1

Medals relating to Irish dance and music, as follows: Double-sided pendant ornamented with an Irish Harp and Irish Spinning Wheel; Newry Musical Feis Silver Medal; Newry Musical Feis Bronze Medal; Feismor Ardmacha medal; and Corcarina medal inscribed 'Nan' on the reverse. With a related leather pouch.

6 items

[c. 1930s-1960s?]

N76/2/5/2 One large and 29 small dance trophies.

30 items

2.6 Recordings

[1973-1974]

N76/2/6/1

Reel-to-reel audio tape containing on side 1 a mixture of popular hymns and Christmas songs, including 'Suffer Little Children', 'Christmas and You', and 'Silent Night'; comic skits; extract from the Queen's Christmas speech 1973; traditional Irish music and songs; and popular hits including 'Playground in My Mind', 'You Are the Sunshine of My Life', 'Ip Dip Chipperdy Dip', 'You Won't Find another Fool like Me', 'Thanks for the Memories', and 'This Time of the Year'. Total duration 01:36:56. Side 2 contains a mixture of popular songs, including 'Fife Foot Two, Eyes of Blue (Has Anybody Seen My Gal)', 'Some of These Days', 'I Understand (Just How You Feel)', 'If You Were the only Girl (in the World), and 'By the Time I Get to Phoenix'; extracts from musicals including 'Clap Hands, Here Comes Charlie', 'Jesus Christ Superstar', 'For Me and My Gal', part of a programme bringing in the New Year 1974; and part of a programme featuring Irish and Scottish folk songs. Total duration 01:33:44. The material appears to have been recorded randomly from the radio or TV. The quality of recording is poor. This item is too fragile to be safely handled. Digital access available in the reading

room – please check with a member of staff.

1 item

[c. 1970s?]

N76/2/6/2

Reel-to-reel audio tape containing on side 1 music to accompany four figures (wheel; show the lady; slide; ladies in) and the Hornpipe (change partners) of The Kerry Set (00:00:00-00:18:55); six figures (pass through; slide; little Christmas; cross and hold; the gallop; wheel and change partners) of The Plain Set (00:19:15-00:37:12); and five figures (the square; pass by; big Christmas; little Christmas; change and line up) of The Lancers (00:37:34-00:53:30). Side 2 is blank. This item is too fragile to be safely handled. Digital access available in the reading room – please check with a member of staff.

1 item

3 RELIGION

Also see N76/6/1/2, N76/6/2/2/1-3, and N76/7/2/2/1-4

3.1 Manuscript and Typescript Notes

[c. 1970s?]

N76/3/1/1 Manu

Manuscript note by Nan Quinn entitled Truth of The Catholic Church.

1 p.

[c. 1970s?]

N76/3/1/2

Manuscript by Nan Quinn entitled Prayer of a Mother To Her Son['s] Ordination.

2 pp.

3.2 Publications

1937

N76/3/2/1

Catholic magazine *The Raphaelite*, bearing inscription 'From uncle P. to Nan with best love'.

79 pp.

[1942]

N76/3/2/2 Catholic

Catholic year book Capuchin Annual, lacking front cover. Fragile.

706 pp.

(c. 1960)

N76/3/2/3 Brochure of a Basilica in Montreal, Canada.

1 item

(c. 1960)

N76/3/2/4 Leaflet relating to St. Patrick's Missionaries, Kiltegan, county Wicklow.

1 item

(c. 1979)

N76/3/2/5 Sheet containing lyrics to the hymns Hymn to Saint Oliver, Now Thank We All Our God; and God Bless Our Pope (adapted).

1 p.

1979

N76/3/2/6 Booklet entitled Celebrations During the Visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to Ireland.

64 pp.

16 September 1979

N76/3/2/7 Church bulletin from Redemptorists, Saint Joseph's, Dundalk entitled Why is

The Pope Coming.

1 item

23 September 1979

N76/3/2/8 Church bulletin from Redemptorists, Saint Joseph's, Dundalk entitled Cead

Mile Failte to Pope John Paul.

1 item

September 1979

N76/3/2/9 Leaflet entitled Week of Prayer in Preparation for Visit of Pope John Paul II relating

to Church activities in Dundalk, county Louth.

1 item

3.3 <u>Correspondence</u>

23 July 1979

N76/3/3/1 Letter from Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich, Archbishop of Armagh, thanking Nan for her gift of linen tablecloth and napkins. The letter contains a handwritten postscript stating that the Cardinal is a past pupil of Nan's dance

school.

4 REPUBLICANISM

Also see N76/6/1/1, N76/6/1/2, and N76/6/1/5

4.1 <u>Leaflets, Flyers, and Brochures</u>

17 May 1945

N76/4/1/1

Reprint from *The Irish Press* of Éamon de Valera's broadcast to the nation in response to Winston Churchill's World War II victory address, in which de Valera was criticized for refusing the British access to Irish ports during the war.

5 pp.

19 April 1954

N76/4/1/2

Souvenir programme of the Irish Republican Army Pre-Truce Association's procession and parade in Dundalk, county Louth on Easter Monday.

31 pp.

24 November 1963

N76/4/1/3

Souvenir booklet commemorating a Fianna Fáil presentation dinner to Frank Aiken T.D., Minister for External Affairs, on the occasion of his fortieth year as Deputy for county Louth to Dáil Éireann.

5 pp.

1966

N76/4/1/4

Souvenir programme in Irish for the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the 1916 Rising by Fourth Northern Division, IRA Veterans, signed by Nan Quinn.

16 pp.

4.2 Publications

1917

N76/4/2/1

Sinn Fein Rebellion Handbook – Easter 1916, published by The Weekly Irish Times, Dublin. The handbook claims to be 'A complete and connected narrative of the Rising with detailed accounts of the fighting at all points'.

285 pp.

4.3 <u>Correspondence</u>

(c. 1966)

N76/4/3/1

Open letter from a 'committee of nationally minded citizens' seeking funding for 1916 Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

1 p.

[c. 1971?]

N76/4/3/2

Manuscript draft of a letter by Nan Quinn responding to a letter in the *Sunday News* about the troubles in Northern Ireland.

3 pp.

4.4 Medals and Certificates

[1920s]

N76/4/4/1

Mounted and framed certificate issued by Óglaigh na hÉireann [Irish Republican Army] Fourth Northern Division to Annie Quinn in recognition of her contribution to the fight for Irish freedom. Outsize.

1 item

1921

N76/4/4/2

1917-1921 Service Medal awarded by the Department of Defence to persons who were members of Cumann na mBan during the revolutionary period 1917-1921. Item in original box.

1 item

1971

N76/4/4/3

Truce (1921) Commemoration Medal issued to veterans of the War of Independence in receipt of the 1917-1921 service medal. Item in original box.

1 item

4.5 Other

1965-1966

N76/4/5/1

Statement of accounts of the Fourth Northern Division of the Old IRA for 1965-1966.

1 p.

5 NEEDLEWORK

5.1 Magazines

[c. 1895]

N76/5/1/1 Weldons Practical Crochet, vol. 33, no. 386 (Fragile); vol. 33, no. 389; and vol. 34, no. 405. Also includes four undated loose-leaf pages from Weldons Practical Crochet – volume and issue number unknown.

4 items

[c. 1910]

N76/5/1/2 Needlecraft: A Practical Journal Descriptive and Illustrative of Irish Crochet Lace.

14 pp.

[c. 1930s]

N76/5/1/3 Weldons Practical Needlework, nos. 122 (fragile); 128; 134 (fragile); and 314. Also single-sheet supplements to nos.122; 128, and 134.

4 items

[c. 1918-1925]

N76/5/1/4 Fancy Needlework Illustrated, vol. III, no. 26 (fragile); and vol. 4, nos. 46 and 47.

3 items

November 1939

N76/5/1/5 November 1939 issue of *Stitchcraft*.

17 pp.

1931:1973-1974

N76/5/1/6 Woman's Weekly, 10 January 1931; 22 December 1973; and 9 November 1974.

3 items

3 May 1958

N76/5/1/7 *Woman's Day*, vol. 1, no.7 (3 May 1958).

5.2 <u>Loose Patterns</u>

[c. 1950s] N76/5/2/1 Maggie, The Wool from Donegal knitting pattern for a woman's jacket (The Achill Jacket). 1 item [c. 1950s] N76/5/2/2 Ard Finnan knitting pattern No. 104 for a woman's jacket (the Myra Aran Jacket). 1 item [c. 1950s] N76/5/2/3Sirdar knitting pattern No. 2023B for a ladies' cardigan. 1 item [c. 1950s] N76/5/2/4 Weldons pattern No. A936 for knitted and crocheted caps. 1 item [c. 1950s] N76/5/2/5 Strutt's Milford crochet patterns for a plant pot holder and a pineapple bonbon bowl. 2 items [c. 1950s] N76/5/2/6 Knitting patterns and fashion items cut out from magazines. 28 items

[c. 1930s-1960s?]

N76/5/2/7 'Ada's Practical Crochet Companion' published as a supplement to 'Weekly Companion'. Contains eight patterns including 'A Paris Hat' and various lace designs.

6 PRESS CUTTINGS

Also see **N76/7/1/1**

6.1 Scrapbooks

1921-1922

N76/6/1/1

Scrapbook containing press cuttings relating to various episodes of violence in the Newry area, county Down immediately before and after the 1921 Anglo-Irish Treaty. Also cuttings relating to P.H. Pearse and family.

25 pp.

(c. 1925-1965)

N76/6/1/2

Scrapbook containing press cuttings relating to church matters, republican figures, dancing, and Irish-American politics.

38 pp.

4 August 1931

N76/6/1/3

Scrapbook containing press cuttings mainly of Irish music and dance festivals [feiseanna] held in Northern Ireland in the 1930s and 1940s.

70 pp.

(c. 1952-1960)

N76/6/1/4

Scrapbook containing press cuttings of Irish dancing competition results. *Fragile.* Also eight loose press cuttings on similar topics.

9 items

(c. January 1972)

N76/6/1/5

Sketch pad used as a scrapbook containing press cuttings relating to a Bloody Sunday incident, which took place in the Bogside area of county Derry, Northern Ireland on 30 January 1972.

46 pp.

6.2 Loose Items

6.2.1 Relating to Dance

Also see **N76/6/1/2-4**

(c. 1960)

N76/6/2/1/1 Press cutting of Eamon de Valera opening the Down feis at Newcastle, county Down.

1 item

[c. 1930s-1960s?]

N76/6/2/1/2 Photocopy of a press cutting containing two photographs of pupils from the

Nan Quinn School of Dancing.

1 item

[c. 1930s-1960s?]

N76/6/2/1/3 Partial photocopy of a press cutting containing two photographs [relating to

dance and drama?].

1 item

[c. 1930s-1960s?]

N76/6/2/1/4 Photocopy of a press cutting relating to dancing competition results.

1 item

[c. 1930s-1960s?]

N76/6/2/1/5 Photocopy of a press cutting containing a photograph of Nan Quinn with

trophies.

1 item

[c. 1930s-1960s?]

N76/6/2/1/6 Photocopy of a press cutting relating to a televised ceili from Newry Town

Hall.

1 item

[c. 1930s-1960s?]

N76/6/2/1/7 Press cuttings relating to Irish dancing competition results.

3 items

[c. 1930s-1960s?]

N76/6/2/1/8 Press cuttings relating to Irish dancing events.

2 items

6.2.2 Relating to Religious Topics

Also see **N76/6/1/2**

6 April 1916

N76/6/2/2/1 Issue of *The New Freeman* newspaper [Catholic publication, Diocese of St. Johns New Brunswick, Canada]. *Fragile*.

1 item

N76/6/2/2/2 29 Sep-7 Oct 1979

Complete issues of Evening Herald, The Dundalk Democrat, and The Armagh-Down Observer, and an Irish Times supplement containing extensive coverage of Pope John Paul II's visit to Ireland.

4 items

(c. 1979)

N76/6/2/2/3 Photocopy of a press cutting relating to the opening of the new Sisters of Mercy Convent at Maghernahely, Bessbrook.

1 item

6.2.3 Other Press Cuttings

7 September 1973

N76/6/2/3/1 Issue of Irish Weekly.

1 item

[c.1930s-1960s?]

N76/6/2/3/2 Poor-quality photocopy of a press cutting containing a photograph of a football team [from c. 1914?] with the caption 'Where Are They Now?'.

1 item

7 PHOTOGRAPHS

7.1 Albums

[c. 1950s?]

N76/7/1/1 Photograph album containing c. 300 black and white images of family members, children, and dancers. Also press cuttings relating to the deaths of Mary Quinn (sister of Nan) and Edmund Burke, and the retirement of Mr. J. G. Burke. *Damaged Spine*.

7.2 <u>Loose Items</u>

7.2.1 Relating to Dance

[c. 1950s?]

N76/7/2/1/1 Black and white full-length studio portraits (c. 80 x 130 mm) of dancers and musicians alone and in pairs, some with trophies and instruments.

6 items

[c. 1950s?]

N76/7/2/1/2 Black and white full-length studio portrait (154 x 205 mm) of three dancers with trophies.

1 item

[c. 1950s?]

N76/7/2/1/3 Black and white studio portrait (215 x 165 mm) of a group of dancers with trophies.

1 item

[c. 1950s?]

N76/7/2/1/4 Black and white photographs (80 x 125 mm and 120 x 80 mm) of dancers in pairs, groups or alone, some with trophies.

10 items

[c. 1950s?]

N76/7/2/1/5 Black and white photographs (50 x 80 mm; 80 x 50 mm; 60 x 54 mm; and c. $50 \times 50 \text{ mm}$) of dancers alone and in groups.

7 items

7.2.2 Images of Religious Nature

[c. 1940s?]

N76/7/2/2/1 Black and white full-length studio portraits (c. 80 x 130 mm) of children in holy communion dress.

10 items

[c. 1950s?]

N76/7/2/22 Black and white photograph (125 x 80 mm) of a child in holy communion dress in front of a building.

[c. 1950s?]

N76/7/2/2/3 Black and white full-length studio portrait (110 x 155 mm) of a child in holy communion dress.

1 item

[c. 1950s?]

N76/7/2/4 Black and white photograph (55 x 80 mm) of three priests standing in front of a doorway.

1item

7.2.3 Other Images

[c. 1950s?]

N76/7/2/3/1 Black and white photograph (115 x 60 mm) of a man in the countryside.

1 item

[c. 1950s?]

N76/7/2/3/2 Black and white photograph (80 x 55 mm) of a group in front of a doorway.

1 item

[c. 1950s?]

N76/7/2/3/3 Black and white photograph (55 x 80 mm) of two people looking at a piece

of paper [?].

1 item

[c. 1950s?]

N76/7/2/3/4 Black and white photograph (80 x 120 mm) of Nan Quinn with a block of

terraced houses in the background.