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The Standish O'Grady Collection at Colby College

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Much of the credit for bringing the life and writings of Standish O'Grady to the attention of American scholars is due to the late Ernest Boyd, distinguished critic and author of such works as Ireland's Literary Renaissance and Appreciations and Depreciations: Irish Literary Studies. A number of the items listed below are from his personal library. They are among the many important gifts which Boyd made to the James Augustine Healy Collection of modern Irish Literature now at Colby. The Standish O'Grady section of this collection is the result of the interest and zeal of Mr. James A. Healy of New York City, who was particularly successful in acquiring many O'Grady items from the Library of the late John Quinn.

The following check list represents one of the most comprehensive collections of O'Grady material extant. It is divided into six sections, each of which is arranged chronologically except the last, which is in alphabetical order. All references are to The Complete Catalog of the Library of John Quinn, New York, Anderson Galleries, 1924.

I. Single Works of Standish O'Grady


Early Bardic Literature, Ireland. London, Sampson Low, Searle, Marston and Rivington, 1879. (First edition. Inscribed on verso of cover title: "I wrote this in the interval between the composition of the first and the second
volumes of 'History of Ireland: Heroic Period.' Standish O'Grady. Top of page 1: "From the Author Standish O'Grady, March 21, '04." Quinn 7357.) Also another copy of above.


*Red Hugh's Captivity; A Picture of Ireland, Social and Political; in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth*. London, Ward and Downey, 1889. (First edition. Inscribed on half-title: "John Quinn from his friend Standish O'Grady, Jan. 27, '14. This book is history very slightly dramatized and historical fiction." Quinn 7363.) Also another copy of above.


*Finn and His Companions*. New York, Cassell, 1892. (First American edition. Not in Quinn.) Also another copy of above.

*The Bog of Stars; and Other Stories of Elizabethan Ireland*. London, Unwin, 1893, cloth. (First edition. Quinn 7366.)
Colby Library Quarterly

The Bog of Stars, and Other Stories of Elizabethan Ireland. London, Unwin, 1893, wrappers. (Second edition. Incribed on the flyleaf: “All the tales in this book may be read as History except the first, Mona-Reulta. Feagh MacHugh, however, who is Lord of Clan Ranal in the story, was actually saved from a nocturnal assault by the roll of a friendly drum as here described. Also, Captain ‘Tom Lee’ who figures here was a contemporaneous historical character. Standish O’Grady, Apr. 23, 1904.” Quinn 7365.)

The Coming of Cuculain, A Romance of the Heroic Age of Ireland. London, Methuen, 1894. (First edition. Inscribed on the flyleaf: “To Mr. John Quinn from the Author, Mr. Standish O’Grady. Whoever would understand History of Ireland, Heroic Period, Vols. I and II, ought to read this first, or in connection with those books. Standish O’Grady, Jan. 27, 1914.” Quinn 7368.)

The Story of Ireland. London, Methuen, 1894. (First edition. Inscribed on flyleaf: “To Mr. John Quinn from his friend Mr. Standish O’Grady, the author. I wrote this outline of Irish History rapidly in less than a month; looking up no authority during its composition except for the Battle of the Boyne. I wrote it thinking that the things I remembered because I felt an interest in them, might be interesting to the reader. Standish O’Grady.” Quinn 7370.) Another copy of above.

In the Wake of King James, or, Dun-Randal on the Sea. London, J. M. Dent and Co., 1896. (First edition, Quinn 7372.)


294 Colby Library Quarterly

Quinn from his friend the author, Standish O'Grady, Jan. 27, 1914. This book is the final form of what was first published as Red Hugh's Captivity." Quinn 7375.)

The Flight of the Eagle. Dublin, Clery & Co. Ltd., 1897. (First Irish edition. Inscribed on half-title: “In chap. 45 there is a vivid description of Hugh Roe and his conductor. It was supplied to me by a lady who actually saw what is here described. I attempt no explanation. The lady saw this scene while driving with me under the foot of Slieve Gullion, south side. The manner of telling is my own. From the author, Standish O'Grady, March 21, 1904.” Not in Quinn.)

In the Wake of King James, or, Dun-Randal on the Sea. London, J. M. Dent and Co., 1897. (Second edition. Inscribed on half-title: “Standish O'Grady, First day of Samhain, 1904.” Quinn 7376.)

All Ireland. Dublin, Sealy, Byers, and Walker, 1898. (First edition, later issue. Quinn 7377.) Another copy of above from the library of Sir Horace Plunkett.

The Queen of the World, or Under the Tyranny, by Luke Netterville [pseud.] London, Lawrence and Bullen Ltd., 1900. (First edition, Ernest Boyd's Copy. Inscribed on half-title: “This book was written before the age of Wells and with no more previous intention than just to amuse the reader. S. O’G.” Quinn 7378.)

In the Gates of the North. Kilkenny, Standish O'Grady, 1901. (First edition. Inscribed on flyleaf: “To James Carleton Young, Feb. 26, 1904. A little after I took my degree in Trinity College Dublin, by a mere accident, on a wet day, in a country house in the West of Ireland, I chanced on an old book, ‘O'Halloran's History of Ireland.’ I never knew before that we had a History. Out of the great interest then excited in my mind upon the subject proceeded in due time my own ‘History of Ireland, Heroic Period Vols. I and II.’ ‘In the Gates of the North’ is a reprint of the more epical parts of that work. I print-
ed it myself a few years since when I chanced to be the owner of a rural printing establishment in Kilkenny. That is how it comes to be so ill printed. Nor was it ever, properly speaking, published. I have copies and whenever they are wanted, I send them. As to the manner of composition—I read all the old stories of Cuculain that I could find and the tale found here just emerged out of the consequent memories and meditations. Standish O'Grady, 63 Park Avenue, Sandymount Dublin.” John Quinn 7380.) Another inscribed copy of above.


The Departure of Dermot. Dublin, Talbot Press, 1917. (First edition, Quinn 7387.)


The Triumph of Cuculain, or, In the Gates of the North. Dublin, Talbot Press, n.d. (Judge Richard Campbell's copy. Quinn 7393.)


The Triumph and Passing of Cuculain. Dublin, Talbot Press, n.d. (Judge Richard Campbell's copy, Quinn 7396.)

II. WORKS EDITED BY STANDISH O'GRADY


III. ARTICLES BY STANDISH O'GRADY


Colby Library Quarterly 297


“Scintillae Hibernicae.” *The Daily Express*, [Dublin], December 18, 1893. (Newspaper clipping.)


“The Exclusion of Ulster.” Letter to the editor of *The Irish Times*, July 2, 1916. (Photostat copy.)

“British Record in Ireland Examined.” *Christian Science Monitor*, Boston, Vol. 10, nos. 248, 249, 250, September 14, 16, 17, 1918. (Three numbers in a half gray morocco slipcase. Quinn 7388.)

IV. Autograph Letters of Standish O’Grady

(a) Originals:

A.L.S. to “Dear Sir” (evidently a literary agent) concern-
298    Colby Library Quarterly

    ing the manuscript of The Coming of Cuculain. February 6, 1893, 25 Morehampton Road, Dublin. 1 p.
A.L.S. to “Dear Sir” (evidently a literary agent) concerning a boy’s story Lost on Du Corrig which had been published in Chums and the possibilities of selling a boy’s history of Ireland to an American publisher. March 9, 1893, 25 Morehampton Road, Dublin. 3 p.
A.L.S. to “Dear Mr. Colles” (a literary agent) referring to the publication of The Coming of Cuculain. June 15, 1893, 25 Morehampton Road, Dublin. 1 p.
A.L.S. to “Dear Mr. Morris” concerning some boy’s stories he had written. January 11, 1894, 25 Morehampton Road, Dublin. 2 p.
A.L.S. to “Dear Sir” (possibly a literary agent) discussing the translation and publication of The Story of Ireland in a Swiss magazine circulating in Paris. April 2, 1895, 4 Earlsfort Place, [Dublin]. 2 p.
A.L.S. to “Dear Manager” (probably the editor of Maunsell and Co., Dublin) expressing disappointment at the postponement of the publication of The Cuculain Story in the whole. O’Grady remarked, “A.E. in the Homestead last week praises it again most warmly.” December 31, n.y. Frascatta, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. 1 p.
(b) Photostat Copies:
A.C.S. to John O’Leary. Postcard asking him to disregard a previous letter. September 18, [1901], 95 Mid Abbey St., [Dublin]. 1 p. (National Library of Ireland in Ms. 8001.)
A.L.S. to Miss C. M. Doyle concerning a subscription to a paper in which she was interested. August 15, [1908]. 4 p. (National Library of Ireland in A.L.S. Collection.)
A.L.S. to Stephen Gwynn introducing Captain Cuffe. n.d. 63 Park Avenue, Sandymount Co., Dublin. 3 p. (National Library of Ireland in Ms. 8600.)
Colby Library Quarterly 299

A.L.S. to John O'Leary concerning the "Act of Union." n.d. 36 Highfield Road, Dublin. 2 p. (National Library of Ireland in Ms. 8001.)

A.L.S. to John O'Leary concerning relations with Irish landlords. n.d. 11 Lower Fitzwilliam St., Dublin. 3 p. (National Library of Ireland in Ms. 8001.)

A.L.S. to "Dear Sir" (a literary agent) concerning the publication of his writings in England. He states that he chose to write about the period of the Elizabethan conquest of Ireland in order to attract the interest of the English reading public. February 14, n.y. 25 Morehampton Road, Dublin. 3 p. (National Library of Ireland.)

V. BIBLIOGRAPHIES


Standish O'Grady: Selected Essays and Passages, with an introduction by Ernest A. Boyd. Dublin, Talbot Press, n.d. (Bibliography of Standish O'Grady on page 20 following the introduction.)

VI. BIOGRAPHICAL AND CRITICAL WRITINGS ABOUT STANDISH O'GRADY

Anonymous. Review of Standish O'Grady's History of
Anonymous. “Mr. Standish O’Grady on ‘Elizabethan Ireland.’” *The Daily Express*, [Dublin], March 20, 1895. (Newspaper clipping.)


Corbet, W. J. “Elizabethan Ireland.” *The Evening Herald*, [Dublin], March 21, 1895. (Newspaper clipping.)

Flood, J. M. “Literary Musings: On Standish O’Grady.” *The Irish Press*, February 12, 1948. (Clipping of the newspaper article, also photostat copy.)


Colby Library Quarterly

L. R. B. Yeats, 1865-1939, 1st American edition. New York, Macmillan, 1943. (Deals briefly with O'Grady and his writings.)

Hone, Joseph. W. B. Yeats, 1865-1939, 1st American edition. New York, Macmillan, 1943. (Deals briefly with O'Grady and his writings.)

---, ed. J. B. Yeats, Letters to His Son W. B. Yeats and Others, 1869-1922, 1st ed. London, Faber and Faber, 1944. (Contains brief references to O'Grady.)

Kunitz, Stanley J., ed. Twentieth Century Authors, First Supplement. New York, H. W. Wilson, 1955. (Contains a biographical sketch as well as a list of the principal works of O'Grady.)


Mercier, Vivian, ed. 1000 Years of Irish Prose, edited with an introduction by Vivian Mercier and Daniel H. Greene. New York, Devin-Adair, 1952. (Part 1, The Literary Revival contains a biographical sketch as well as selections from O'Grady's History of Ireland: Critical and Philosophical and History of Ireland: The Heroic Period.)

---, "Standish James O'Grady: 1. Historian and Storyteller, 2. Landlords and the Revival." The Irish Times, July 28 and August 4, 1956. (Newspaper clippings, also photostat copies.)


O'Grady, Hugh Art. *Standish James O'Grady, the Man and the Writer.* Dublin, Talbot Press, 1929. (First edition, first printing, recalled by publisher because nine poems by "A.E." on pages 52-62 were erroneously attributed to Standish O'Grady. Refer to article by Sir Henry McNally listed above.) Another copy of above.

Orage, A. R. "Mr. Standish O'Grady." *Readers and Writers,* 1st ed. London, Allen and Unwin, 1922, p. 79-80. (Also on p. 80-81 "Mr. Standish O'Grady, Enchanter.")


Ryan, W. P. *The Irish Literary Revival; Its History, Pioneers*
AN IMPORTANT HARDY MANUSCRIPT

The Library has just received from an anonymous donor an extremely interesting autograph of Thomas Hardy—the original rough-draft manuscript of his poem "The Two Tall Men." Those who consult Hardy's Collected Poems will not find there a poem by this title, but the following explanation of this fact can be given.

Hardy wrote this rough draft on the back of an announcement of the sale of Wembley Stadium and Greyhound Racecourse shares dated August 24, 1927. The date shows that this poem was one of the very latest composed by him before his death in January 1928. It is obviously a very characteristic piece of work.

The poem deals with a man who was so tall that he was afraid of being buried (as his father had been buried) in a coffin too short for a man of his height. He accordingly began making a coffin for himself, one "long enough."