

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

CONTENTS

Introduction from the Director of the National Museum of Ireland.....	4
Collections and Learning	8
Art and Industry.....	8
Irish Antiquities.....	11
Irish Folklife.....	17
Natural History.....	19
Conservation.....	22
Registration.....	25
Education and Outreach	28
Photography.....	32
Design.....	34
Operations	42
Financial Management.....	42

	33
Human Resource Shared Services Unit.....	44
Information Communications Technology (ICT)	45
Marketing and PR.....	50
Facilities (Accommodation and Security).....	55
Publications by Museum Staff.....	57
Board of the National Museum of Ireland.....	63
Staff Directory.....	64

INTRODUCTION FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

In late 2014, the Museum faced difficult decisions owing to the fact that the reserves on which it drew to cover the shortfall in its annual grant-in-aid were exhausted and the very real prospect of closure of Museum premises and the introduction of charges were being considered to allow the Museum to continue its operations. These measures were avoided, thanks to an increase of €650,000 in the proposed allocation to the Museum for 2015 provided by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in the revised estimates.

The term of office of nine of the fifteen Board members expired in October, 2015, leaving the Museum with a barely quorate Board while we awaited the appointment of Board members under the Government's new system. A number had served two terms as Board members and I would like to express my own and the institution's gratitude to the outgoing members for their years of service. In particular I would like to thank the outgoing Chairman, Dr John O'Mahony, S.C., for his unstinting support in steering the institution through difficult times and for his advice, support and encouragement.

2015 was a significant year as it was the 125th anniversary of the opening of the Museum of Science and Art on 29th August 1890.

The anniversary was celebrated by a day of special events in Kildare Street that included special displays, educational events and opportunities for visitors to meet staff from all departments, curatorial, education and registration.

The Ireland 2016 Centenary programme was officially launched at the NMI, Collins Barracks on 31st March, by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, accompanied by An Tánaiste, Joan Burton, the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys, and Aodhán Ó Ríordáin, Minister of State for New Communities, Culture and Equality. Preparations began to develop the National Museum's own contribution to the Centenary events, including a major exhibition and associated public programming.

A retrospective of the work of couturier Ib Jorgen opened at Collins Barracks, the first exhibition in the Museum's new design gallery. At the Museum of Country Life, an innovative exhibition entitled *Migrant Women.- Shared Experiences* was curated in partnership with a number of migrant women who have settled in the Mayo area in recent years.

A highlight of the year was the staging of the innovative site-specific theatre piece *Pals – the Irish at Gallipoli*, developed by Anu Productions at Collins Barracks, developed in partnership with the National Archives and ICTU. It was made possible through a generous grant from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The production was staged from February to April, with up to 5 performances a day. It was so successful that it was reprised in August.

In all, some 405 performances were held which were seen by 12,020 people. The production won the People's Choice Award at the 2016 Theatre Awards.

Visitor numbers to the Museum's four sites continued to increase. 2015 saw a record number of visitors - 1.2 million – representing the fifth successive year where the Museum attracted over 1 million visitors. The Museum visitor numbers have doubled in the past decade.

Two major monographs were published during the year: *Straw, Hay & Rushes in Irish Folk Tradition* by Anne O'Dowd, formerly of the Irish Folklife Division, in association with Irish Academic Press and *Viking Graves and Grave-Goods in Ireland* by Stephen Harrison and Ragnall Ó Floinn, the latest volume in the Museum's Dublin Excavations series. The monograph *Eileen Gray – Her Work and her World* by Jennifer Goff of the Art & Industrial Division, published in association with Irish Academic Press was nominated for the Bord Gáis Irish Book Awards.

Work on inventorising the Museum's collections continued as well as the transfer of material to the Collections Resource Centre in Swords. A major milestone was reached by the Inventory Project with the completion of the documentation of the Irish Folklife collections which now contains 35,184 validated records.

The Education Department continued to expand its learning programmes, reaching larger and ever wider range of audiences and three new Education Assistants were appointed at the Dublin sites.

The Conservation Department and the Irish Antiquities Division oversaw the raining of a large number of cannon from the Armada wreck *Juliana* which are now being conserved in our conservation laboratories at Collins Barracks.

A restructuring of the Museum was carried out in December. Changes in roles and responsibilities involved the replacement of a tripartite departmental structure of Administration, Collections and Services with the creation of two Departments dealing with Operations and Collections & Learning. Seamus Lynam took over the role of Head of Operations, while Rolly Read was appointed to the position of Head of Collections and Learning. Anne Grady took on the role of Head of Development. Other long-term vacancies at management level were filled – Mary Cahill was appointed to the position of Keeper of Irish Antiquities, Judith Finlay was appointed Registrar while Audrey Whitty became Keeper of Art & Industry. Dora Murphy, textile curator, retired during the year after long years of service to the institution.



Ragnall Ó Floinn

Director

COLLECTIONS AND LEARNING

As part of an internal restructuring process, the Collections & Learning Department was created under the Head of Collections and Learning. This now includes Education and Outreach, Photography and Graphic Design in addition to the curatorial divisions, Registration and Conservation.

ART & INDUSTRY

The Art and Industrial Division is responsible for over a quarter of a million artefacts reflecting Irish economic, social, industrial, political and military history over the last four centuries. In addition, staff in the division care for collections of Irish, European and Asian decorative arts.

There were a number of highly significant acquisitions during the year; three exhibitions were opened. In addition 2015 saw the in-house publication of two catalogues for the exhibitions *Recovered Voices: Stories of the Irish at War* and *A Journey: Twenty-seven years of the Irish Woodturner Emmet Kane*. This year was also marked by the appointment of Audrey Whitty as Keeper of the Division, as well as the initiation of major planning of the museum's centenary exhibition on the 1916 Easter Rising. This preparation led to the appointment of three curatorial researchers as part of the project team.

Several significant purchases for the collection were made throughout the year, which included a mounted photographic print captioned 'Ireland's first Gaelic play, St. Patrick at Tara, presented by the Gaelic League in 1894'; a collection of four letters received by Kathleen Clarke after the Rising; thirteen military communications from Republican commanders in the Civil War, 13 – 27 July 1922; a hand-lettered notice addressed to the Irish Volunteers, Inchicore by Con Colbert, April 1915; An address to members of the I.R.B. from the President of its Supreme Council, 1914; an Irish silver neo-Celtic pattern belt clasp, Dublin 1909; a polished ebony paper knife, incised 'Miss Maud Gonne, Paris, with Sol. Gillingham's Compts. Made by Prisoners of War Ceylon, 1900 1901' and a bronze commemorative An Tóstal plaque by Gabrielle Hayes (1950s). Contemporary collecting by the Division continued with a significant purchase of a major ceramic sculpture by Claire Curneen entitled *Psyche* under the National Museum of Ireland's joint purchase fund with the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland.

Donations included a large enamel artwork from the late 1940s, entitled *Tiger Tiger* by Marit Guinness Aschan; a ceramic sculpture by Nuala Creed entitled *Lament for Fukushima*, 2013; a large donation of Grange furniture from the late 1930s; a workbook with samples entitled *Manual of Needlework for the use of National Schools*, Dublin, 1882; an original chaise longue by Michael Thonet from the late 1910s; a donation of Barney Heron furniture designed by the architect Václav Gunzl (1900-82); the archive of the architect and designer Frederick MacManus (1903-85); a pair of jodphurs, 1959, made by the Dublin tailors, Hawkins and Co.;

a French Foreign Legion Uniform; a rare WWI Royal Flying Corps uniform; a contemporary ceramic sculpture entitled 'Pleated Grid', 2014 by Henry Pim.

The acclaimed immersive theatre production by Anu Productions of *Pals – the Irish at Gallipoli*, was developed with the assistance of Divisional staff and took place at Collins Barracks to sell-out audiences.

Public queries continued to be dealt with during the year. Researchers were given access to reserve material across all collections. *ID2015* (Year of Irish Design) entailed much divisional engagement with the media (including RTÉ's *Designing Ireland* documentary series), as well as the launching of contemporary design exhibitions throughout the country.

Curatorial staff also gave interviews and provided information to media across all aspects of the division's collections and exhibitions. Curators continued to deliver gallery talks, tours and lectures throughout the year. Audiences included the general public, specialist interest groups, adult education and active retirement groups, and third level and postgraduate students. Some of these talks were held or associated with the Irish Museum of Modern Art, the Dublin Decorative and Fine Arts Society and the Association of Retail Jewellers of Ireland. Likewise lectures were given at a variety of venues both nationally and internationally, including National Army Museum, London; New York School of Interior Design and Chester Beatty Library.

IRISH ANTIQUITIES

The Irish Antiquities Division is responsible for the archaeological, ethnographical, classical and Egyptian collections. The Division is also responsible for the administration of various statutory functions such as the acquisition of archaeological objects claimed as the property of the state and the regulation of licences to export and alter archaeological objects.

In April 2015, Mary Cahill was appointed Keeper of Irish Antiquities.

Divisional staff dealt with statutory licensing responsibilities throughout the year on a routine basis. The total figures for all licences for 2015 are as follows:

Applications for licences to excavate, monitor, dive/survey and detect: 948
(including 135 extensions)

Applications for Ministerial Consents: 41

Applications for Directions: 16

Applications for licences to alter: 143

Applications for licences to export: 109

Responsibility for the issuance of Licences to Alter from the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht was transferred to the Board of the National Museum of Ireland.

This change means that the Museum is now fully responsible for the processing and issuance of Licence to Alter and Export. T. Considerable progress on the development of an online licensing system in collaboration with ICT was made in 2015 and it is hoped that a fully operational online licensing system will be available in 2016.

In 2015 fieldwork in relation to archaeological discoveries was undertaken in ten counties—Dublin Galway, Kildare, Kilkenny, Longford, Meath, Offaly, Sligo, Waterford and Westmeath.

Fifty seven objects were registered in the 2015 from seventeen counties. Finds include a range of archaeological objects including lithics, ceramics, wooden vessels and bog butter. A very important Merovingian (7th century) gold coin, probably from Trim, Co. Meath, was acquired via online auction. Finders' rewards were awarded to finders of archaeological objects as appropriate. Staff continued to liaise with consultant archaeological companies and state services on the acquisition and deposition of excavated collections and associated archives at the CRC Swords. Work continued on completing the documentation and cataloguing of acquisitions for the period 2009-2013.

A major re-organisation of IAD topographical file system of records took place with staff re-ordering the Topographical file system from its original alphabetical and topographical system to one ordered by registration number.

The divisional collection of 35mm slides numbering c. 25,000 and c. 3000 large format colour transparencies were transferred to CRC Swords for permanent storage.

This collection comprises all the IAD photographic assets that were scanned in 2008.

This material is now available on the museum's digital photographic management system.

Regular liaison with the National Monuments Service on applications to excavate, Ministerial Consents and illegal metal detecting continued throughout the year. There was also liaison with Cultural Institutions Division, Dept. of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht in relation to various export licence applications. Illegal metal-detecting continues to be a cause of concern and several meetings with interested third parties took place during the year. Staff of the Division assisted An Garda Síochána with investigations relating to archaeological sites at Rindoon, Co. Roscommon, Trammon, Co Meath, Carrig, Co Wicklow and Montpelier Hill (the Hellfire Club), Co. Dublin.

A programme of refurbishment of exhibitions continued with work completed in the Ancient Egypt gallery. Work commenced in the *Medieval Ireland* galleries (replacement of lighting, audio-visual and inter-active elements) and the *Prehistoric Ireland* (replacement of labels). Backlit panels in the Treasury were replaced.

As part of its commitment to work with local and regional museums in Ireland staff liaised and consulted with museum colleagues and engaged in discussions and negotiations with museums all over Ireland. These included North Down Museum, Bangor; Down County Museum, Downpatrick, Co. Down; Ulster Museum, Belfast, Co. Antrim; Carlow County Museum; Cavan County Museum; Clare County Museum; Donegal County Museum; Classical Museum, University College Dublin,

Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin; Fermanagh County Museum; Galway Atlantaquaria, National Aquarium of Ireland, Galway; Galway City Museum, Galway; Kerry County Museum; St Mary's Church, Kilkenny; Hunt Museum, Limerick City and Waterford City Museums, Waterford. Viking material was loaned to the exhibition *Viking Voyagers* at the National Maritime Museum, Falmouth Cornwall, England (until Jan 2017). Material on loan to *The Vikings* exhibition in Berlin was returned. A significant loan of Iron Age and Early Medieval objects was made to the exhibition *The Celts* which opened at the British Museum in September 2015. Two objects from the ethnographic collection relating Captain Cook's voyages were installed in the exhibition *Arctic Ambitions* at the Washington State History Museum, Tacoma, Washington, USA.

In 2015 there were 105 research visits to the Reserve Collections and 115 visits to the Archives. Staff also assisted a joint National Monuments Service, Discovery Programme and Institute for Advanced Studies project on research in relation to ogham stones. IAD and Education staff assisted University College Maynooth to complete a module of the Masters in Digital Humanities. Staff members were involved in organising a conference of Irish Isotopes Research Group in September.

Staff together with colleagues from the Conservation Department played a vital role in a major operation undertaken by the National Monuments Service to lift material including cannons from the Spanish Armada wreck, *La Juliana*, at Streedagh, Co. Sligo.

Staff were involved in discussions regarding an EU funded project entitled 'Connecting Early Medieval European Collections'.

IAD staff members were involved in a number of projects including the Dublin Excavations Publication Project; the Bog Bodies Research Project; a project on dating and typology of iron spearheads and prehistoric gold. These included of a corpus of Late Bronze Age gold penannular rings as part of a European wide collaboration on this artefact type. Further research on Early Bronze Age goldwork was undertaken with a view to publication. Seven samples were submitted dates to the ChronoCentre Belfast for radiocarbon dating including human remains and wood samples as part of a continuing IAD project to date as many organic samples from recent finds as possible within current funding limits.

Human remains withdrawn from the Kildare St crypt were listed, repacked and transferred to the Collections Resource Centre (CRC) in Swords for permanent storage in the human remains store. IAD staff liaised with the office of the State Pathologist with a view to transferring ancient human remains to the CRC.

Staff facilitated internship placements and Transition Year work experience students. A wide range of students was accommodated including the first student from a new MA in Museum Studies from University College Cork.

Staff contributed to the day of special events on 29th August 2015 to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the opening of the Museum of Science and Art in Kildare St in 1890 as well as to the autumn public lecture series marking this anniversary.

Divisional staff delivered lectures to a variety of local and national bodies on archaeological and museological topics at the following venues:- NUI Galway Archaeological Summer School, Trinity College, Dublin, Ulster Museum seminar series, Belfast and the European Archaeologists Association annual conference in Glasgow. Staff members led special tours for visiting colleagues, groups and delegations.

The National Museum was represented on the following boards by the Irish Antiquities staff: Discovery Programme Council, Royal Irish Academy Standing Committee for Archaeology, Bord na Móna Archaeological Liaison Committee, Steering Group of the Dublin City and County Archaeology GIS project and the Heritage Council's Advisory Group on Museum Standards Programme for Ireland. The Keeper took part in a Research Quality Assessment exercise undertaken by an External Review Panel of the School of Archaeology, UCD. The Keeper represented NMI at the Scotland-Ireland Archaeology Seminar at Edinburgh Castle to discuss Scotland-Ireland archaeological collaboration. Staff members also played an active part in NMI internal committees and working groups.

Staff members participated in a number of television and radio programmes. IAD staff members attended the Prehistoric Society's Europa Conference at UCD, *Revealing the Past* seminar at the Royal Irish Academy, the European Association of Archaeologists Annual Conference at Glasgow and the Bronze Age Forum conference at Exeter University.

IRISH FOLKLIFE

The Folklife Division manages the national collections of objects representing Irish traditional life in the period principally between the Great Famine and the immediate aftermath of the Second World War. The Division is based in the National Museum of Ireland – Country Life at Turlough Park, Castlebar, Co. Mayo. The bulk of the Folklife collections are housed at the Museum of Country Life; the remainder are in the process of being transferred from the Museum’s storage facility in Daingean, Co. Offaly to the CRC, Swords, Co. Dublin.

2015 was another busy year for the Division. A significant milestone for the Division was the publication of former Curator Dr Anne O’Dowd’s catalogue and study of the straw, hay and rushes objects in the Folklife Collections. *Cycling the Country*, originally intended as a temporary exhibition, was completed and is now part of the permanent displays on Level B. In temporary exhibitions, *Preserving the Peace* continued until June; it was replaced by *Migrant Women – Shared Experiences* in August; *OnSight* was mounted again in the Museum grounds and a small display was mounted for Christmas. The theme for much of the year was migration; in addition to the *Migrant Women* exhibition, it was the theme for *OnSight*, for Culture Night in September and it also informed the Christmas display. An ancillary series of exhibitions was mounted in the Museum Café.

While few objects were added to the Folklife collections in 2015, considerable work was put into assessing and selecting from a major collection in Athlone, County

Westmeath. Among the acquisitions were the forage cap of a Deputy Commissioner of An Garda Síochána presented by Commissioner Nóirín O’Sullivan, and a Garda whistle owned by former Commissioner Edmund Garvey.

There was steady progress in the transfer of the collection from Daingean to the CRC in Swords. Staff spent several sessions in Daingean assessing the collections there, while cleaning and preparation for transfer was undertaken by the Conservation Department.

The Museum has an on-going project of engagement with the Traveller Community, and the Division organised a number of events during the year.

Staff dealt with numerous queries about the collections and Folklife from members of the public, students, academics, and other institutions during the year. They participated in the delivery of talks and other educational activities in the galleries and in outreach to community and local history groups and also to academic conferences such as that of the Economic and Social History Society of Ireland Annual Conference in Mary Immaculate College of the University of Limerick.

Hair Hurling Balls – Earliest artefacts of our national game, an exhibition featuring the fourteen hair hurling balls in Irish museum collections, continued on display in the GAA Museum in Croke Park until June. The exhibition focused on the discoveries made regarding the composition and dating of the hurling balls. It was displayed again for the summer months in Turlough Park. The exhibition went on loan to Galway City Museum in September.

NATURAL HISTORY

This Division cares for the Museum collections in the disciplines of zoology and geology, which number approximately two million specimens.

The Natural History Museum continues to be very popular with the public, with over 313,000 visits in 2015, which represents the most successful year on record. The National Museum of Ireland continues to press for the funding to allow the second and third floor balconies to reopen in line with the restoration plan for this 150 year old building and to provide wheelchair access to upper floors. The education service was reinstated in September after a two year gap, but unfortunately the retail outlet remained closed due to staff reductions across the National Museum of Ireland.

The Natural History Museum also remains popular with the media, for its educational role or simply as a filming location. The television drama series *Penny Dreadful* (series 3) set in 1890s London, used the museum extensively for episodes due for transmission from May 2016. Staff also contributed to television programmes including a Canadian Discovery Channel programme on Wicklow's landscape, rhinoceros horn, ice age Irish animals, and Blaschka glass models. The latter collection featured in an award winning documentary *Fragile Legacy* that relates to a major exhibition planned for Corning, New York in 2016.

An Irish company, Novegen Ltd., carried out 3D photography of the interior of the Natural History Museum and produced an online tour of the entire Natural History Museum that went live on 8 April at <http://www.museum.ie/nh3d>.

This was supplied free by the company and gives online visual access to areas of the building that have been closed to visitors since 2007.

The most significant addition to the collections was the transfer of a further 5,000 mineral and rock specimens from UCD, adding to a similar donation the previous year and representing the remainder of their reserve geological collections. The Heritage Council granted some support to the UCD project in addition to a grant in the previous year. Staff collected geological specimens underground at Tara Mines, and in quarries around Bellewstown, Co. Meath, and recovered giant deer and reindeer remains from Cos Kildare and Wicklow. Research scientists continued to donate specimens of rare Irish species including a number of insects not previously recorded on the island, with one large donation comprising 700 specimens. The collection of tissue samples from stranded whales and dolphins continued to grow through the support of the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group and now contains over a thousand samples available for research into these protected marine animals.

The focus on collections management during the year was in assisting documentation project staff with databasing of specimens and preparing collections for cataloguing. Once catalogued, specimens are shipped to the CRC in Swords. This involves palletising hundreds of drawers of specimens, wrapping all taxidermy in plastic for freezing as part of IPM quarantine control to ensure no insect pests enter the new store, and documentation of all moves.

This project is affording the opportunity to unpack some geological collections crated since the 1962 evacuation of the fossil hall exhibition beside the Natural History Museum prior to its demolition.

The OPW carried out repairs to leaking roof areas in the offices at the back of the Natural History Museum. Replacement of rotted timbers, plastering and painting led to closure of access to parts of the insect collections for six months and relocation of staff whose offices were affected.

Staff shortages limit the work of monitoring for insect pests that can cause damage to collections, particularly in the old museum building where moth and beetle larvae are a regular problem. Replacement of evaporation in alcohol collections is also a challenge for the collection of 25,000 jars of pickled specimens. The work of a team of volunteers contributed to progress on many projects and supported the development of their skills in what is a very specialised field.

The Division worked with the British Geological Survey and with University College Dublin to provide advice on curation and display of natural history specimens. Staff also delivered modules of the *Museum Basics* course of the Irish Museums Association. Exhibition support was also given to the Copper Coast Geopark in Waterford and to the Irish Museum of Modern Art for their exhibition *Trove*.

In addition to their scientific publications, the two remaining scientific staff contributed to the production and management of the journals *Earth Science Ireland*, *The Geological Curator*, *Irish Journal of Earth Sciences*, *Irish Naturalists' Journal*,

and both *Journal* and *Newsletter of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland*. The websites of the Irish Museums Association and Irish Naturalists' Journal, and the library of the Speleological Union of Ireland were also managed. Staff gave a number of public talks, tours for third level colleges and special interest groups, and assisted with organisations including the Merrion Square Innovation Network, National Biodiversity Data Centre and the Geological Survey of Ireland's Heritage and Planning Programme.

CONSERVATION

The work of the Conservation Department in 2015 was directed towards three specific areas. These were the preparation of objects for upcoming temporary and permanent exhibitions, the preparation of objects for loan to other institutions and the transfer of objects to the CRC in Swords.

A number of temporary and permanent exhibitions took place during the year and all of the associated material was conserved and mounted. These included *Preserving the Peace* and *Hair Hurling balls: earliest artefacts of our national game* at the National Museum of Ireland - Country Life, Turlough Park.

The *Ib Jorgenson - a Fashion retrospective* exhibition opened in Collins Barracks in March and numerous artefacts from the Art and Industry collections were conserved with assistance from the private sector in preparation for the *Proclaiming the Republic 1916* exhibition.

Conservation staff were extremely busy with the ongoing schedule of loans to institutions both home and abroad. These included loans to Anchorage, Alaska, the British Museum and the National Maritime Museum in Cornwall. All artefacts required to be conserved, condition reported and mounted. *Trove* by Dorothy Cross at IMMA was dismantled.

Remedial Conservation

During August and September nine cannon, the largest of which is 3.3m in length, a siege gun wheel, a copper cauldron and other artefacts were recovered from the wreck of the *Juliana* by the DOE Underwater Unit. This find comprises the largest assembly of Spanish Armada cannon in Europe and they are now housed in the conservation department. It is anticipated that this project will take a number of years to complete and Hannah Power, conservator, will oversee this.

Conservation continued on the significant archaeological discoveries, including Viking and Bronze-age weaponry, from the Underwater Unit's excavations in Lough Corrib, Co. Galway.

Further progress was made in the freeze-drying of the backlog of organic waterlogged objects from the Dublin Excavations and other sites at the waterlogged wood treatment centre in Lanesborough, Co. Roscommon.

Investigative Conservation

Investigation and scientific analysis of the collections took place during the year using the Museum's X-ray and XRF facilities. This enabled curators to determine the authenticity and composition of artefacts prior to acquisition. A number of research projects were continued including the alloy determination of medieval horse cheek-pieces and early medieval brooch-pins.

Preventive Conservation

The routine monitoring and maintenance of the museum environment continued on all NMI sites. In particular relative humidity, temperature, and light levels were continuously monitored on sites where collections are held. Insect pest monitoring continued on all sites, with objects being frozen to control infestations as necessary.

A great deal of conservation time was spent during the year, preparing objects for transfer to the CRC in Swords with a particular emphasis being placed during the year on the collections housed in Daingean, Co. Offaly.

A series of monthly three day visits by up to five members of the department took place throughout the year, to clean and prepare these collections for transfer to the CRC.

Dora Murphy, the Museum's textile conservator, retired after 43 years of service. A conservation intern was supervised for a period of 3 months.

The Department hosted a number of tours during the year. Lectures and practical demonstrations were provided by staff for the conservation module of the UCC Museum Studies MA course. As this was the inaugural year time was spent by relevant conservation staff in preparing lectures and demonstrations. At completion of the course the students had to produce an essay which was assessed and marked by the Head of Conservation.

REGISTRATION

The Registration Department is responsible for the documentation, transfer and location management of the NMI's collections. It controls and maintains the Museum's Collection management database and also manages the Museum's archives and central library and administers museum loans.

Judith Finlay was appointed to the position of Registrar in April, 2015.

The documentation inventory project continued in three curatorial divisions. A total of 37,549 records were validated this year. The total number of validated records since the Project began is 595,846. 18 Documentation Discoveries articles were published online in 2015. The Documentation Procedural Manual was drafted by all documentation staff and is now being formatted and finalised. Register inputting, and attaching scanned or digital images continues in the Art and Industry and Irish Folklife divisions, to complete inventory-level records.

In the National Museum of Ireland – Country Life four public tours of the stores were provided, staff dealt with public queries and facilitated a number of academic researchers in store. The Irish Folklife Documentation Officer led the de-installation of the *Preserving the Peace* exhibition and provided related public events. The Documentation Assistant maintained the Memory Book project, this features on the ‘Our Irish Heritage’ website. The Irish Folklife St. Brigid Cross collection and the Campbell Collection of Architectural Surveys were prepared to minimum catalogue standard.

The digitisation of historical documents was completed, with scans attached to the Adlib Collections Management database and records prepared for online access by staff. In-house digitisation continued in Art and Industry, with staff completing the scanning, renaming and filing of some 14,716 35mm images. In total, 37,720 photographs were scanned, and are ready to be attached to Adlib.

The Registrar led the Standards Group in the creation and implementation of the Minimum Catalogue Standard Policy and validation lists. This was prioritised to facilitate the Online Collections project, along with a range of customised improvements to Adlib, the collections management database and the re-instatement of the Terminology Group, led by the Natural History/Irish Antiquities Documentation Officer. One documentation assistant is now dedicated full-time to data tidy and clean up to progress this work.

86 loans were processed in and out of the NMI. The loans officer gave a presentation at National Gallery of Ireland's Loans Forum, reviewed and updated the NMI Loans Policy and prepared it for implementation subject to approval.

There were thirty-nine collection transfers to the CRC in Swords. Transfer of collections from the Museum store in Inchicore is now complete.

Fifty-four researchers, 12 tours and two events in collaboration with Fingal Co Council were facilitated at the CRC. Boat racking, shelving and mezzanine floor were commissioned and installed to house the Irish Folklife collection and a third Metal Finds store was installed to house Irish Antiquities collections. An outsourcing project to process the Easter Week archives and attach relevant scans (as per the historical documents scanning project) was carried out this year and is almost complete.

Work continues on preparing the Directors Archive for cataloguing.

To date, 455 boxes of material containing 5,282 files were re-housed and listed.

For most of 2015 the Archivist continued to manage both the Library and the Archive. The Librarian returned in early October.

The Natural History Documentation Officer continues to manage the Irish Antiquities inventory team also and the Registrar continues as manager of the National Museum of Ireland – Collections Resource Centre, as well as Art and Industry Documentation Officer. There were two part-time staff based in the National Museum of Ireland – Collections Resource Centre for most of 2015.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

In 2015 the Department provided an inclusive and accessible learning programme in the four Museums, online and in the community against a backdrop of staff shortages and limited financial resources.

124,227 people used our Education services at the National Museum of Ireland in 2015.

A public programme was produced for diverse audiences every quarter and featured in the Calendar of Events. The Schools' Programme attracted large numbers of schools and colleges throughout Ireland.

The Department led training programmes for educators including those involved in the Bronze Age Handling Box Project.

Self-directed resources were revised and created to provide deeper engagement with the collections including an architectural trail at the NMI – Archaeology and handbooks for permanent exhibitions at the NMI - Country Life.

The Department engaged with audiences online through the Explore and Learn pages of the Museum’s website and through initiatives such as the following:

- design of an online resource for the Bronze Age Handling Box Project and formally launched by the Minister for Education and Skills.
- development of a cross-curricular post primary schools’ project at the NMI – Decorative Arts and History on the Irish at Gallipoli using primary sources and handling material.
- creation of content by the Mayo Genealogy Group for the *101 Mayo People Project* and included on the following NMI website:

The Department curated both *My Home is My Castle – Connacht Textile Crafters* and the *Samhain: Shadows, Sound and stories* exhibitions with a touring schedule for *Samhain* organised for 2016. The Department also contributed to the development of the planned 1916 and *Migrant Women – Shared Experiences* exhibitions and researched, designed and delivered public programmes related to these exhibitions’ themes.

The Department continued to build relationships with local communities through Knitting Circles, Music Circles and Genealogy Groups and outreach to schools, libraries and other venues.

We engaged with new partners and built on previous partnerships with organisations including Dublin City Council, Mayo and Galway County Councils, National Theatre of Ireland, the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals, Dublin Institute of Technology, Trinity College, Education Centre Network, Professional Development Services for Teachers, St Patrick's Festival, Teagasc, Mayo Intercultural Action and Age and Opportunity.

The Department played a key role in promoting and marketing the Museum's events and advocated for the value of museum learning by presenting at the Irish Museum of Ireland's (IMA) annual conference in Belfast and the IMA's Education Forum. The Head of Education was nominated to the Board of *Encountering the Arts Ireland*, an organisation advocating for the value of cultural education. The Department also participated in promoting the NMI at the Ploughing Championships, the Native Species Weekend in Dublin Zoo and the Creative Engagement showcase event.

In preparation for the decade of centenaries in 2016, the Department collaborated with Poetry Ireland, Design and Crafts Council of Ireland and others in developing public programmes and resources around 1916 and the First World War for delivery in 2016. Progress was made on developing a panel of freelance guides to cater for the public's high demand for tours.

The Department welcomed three new Education Assistants to the Education staff.

Interns and those on job bridge schemes availed of work experience and mentoring.

As part of staff training and professional development, staff attended conferences and went on study visits to UK museums and participated in a day-long workshop on improving facilitation skills with Chrissie Poulter, Trinity College, Dublin.

Demand on the Bookings and Information Offices in Dublin and Mayo remained high throughout the year with a particularly high level of enquiries and bookings received for 1916-related events.

The Department continued to maintain its dedicated learning and interactive gallery spaces and continued to also build on and maintain its handling collections across all sites.

Other highlights include:

NMI – Archaeology:

- Open day held to celebrate the 125th anniversary including lectures, handling objects and tours.

NMI – Natural History:

- An annual programme of events developed despite the low level of education staff at this site. In particular high numbers attended St Patrick's Day, Halloween and Culture Night events.

NMI – Decorative Arts and History:

- The *Hands on History* programme, that links the public to the collections through handling objects, attracted hundreds of interested people throughout 2015.

NMI – Country Life:

- The iCAN project launched Galway Community Heritage website in partnership with Galway Heritage Office and an evaluation of the project was planned for delivery in 2016 with a budget secured for the initiative.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The Photographic Department is responsible for a wide range of photography of the collections, buildings and activities to support the Museum's strategic objectives. It also manages the Museum's Digital Asset Management System and the Digital Photographic Image Archive.

This year saw further expansion of content and development of the Digital Asset Management System and Digital Photographic Image Archive.

The training of Museum staff in the use of the Digital Asset Management System continued throughout the year. Newly photographed material as well as existing digital images were archived.

Photography was undertaken for various exhibitions including the commencement of work for *Proclaiming a Republic The 1916 Rising*, and of objects to be sent out on loan.

Images were supplied for the publication *Straw, Hay & Rushes in Irish Folk Tradition* by Dr Anne O'Dowd. Images of objects from the Design and Crafts Council of Ireland joint purchase scheme were provided for their website. Photographs were taken of the open day held in conjunction with the 125th Anniversary of the opening of the museum building at Kildare Street and images were also supplied quarterly for the Calendar of Events.

Processing raw captures, searching, retrieving, cleaning, optimizing and outputting of images via optical media, file delivery systems and traditional prints continued. Some 12,500 images were processed for staff and for external users as well as dealing with several thousand photographic queries via email, telephone and interactions with colleagues in other Departments/Divisions and museums, designers, multimedia producers and printers.

The Senior Photographer continued serving on the Online Collection Advisory Group and sub committees. The Department contributed throughout the year to the Online Collections Project.

The Department procured new Mac Computer Systems Hardware at the end of the year: the work stations and a new printer will be installed in 2016.

Tendering for photography services, digital archiving services and digital imaging services took place throughout the year.

A presentation on the establishment and operation of the Digital Asset Management System/Digital Photographic Image Archive was given by the Digital Archiving Contractor and the Senior Photographer to a delegation from the National Museums of Denmark.

The Senior Photographer oversaw the print production for the reprint of *Treasures of the National Museum of Ireland* publication.

DESIGN

The Design Department provides a quality design service to all Departments/ Divisions of the National Museum, including exhibition support, design for print and web, archaeological illustration, maps, and archaeological site plans. 2015 was another busy year for the studio with many exciting projects completed. A dedicated Archaeological Illustrator became the newest member of staff and will enable the Department to provide much needed support in the area of Illustration.

The Department successfully designed and developed the graphics for a number of exhibitions. Preliminary work commenced in July on the forthcoming *Proclaiming a Republic - The 1916 Rising* exhibition. All exhibition graphics were completed for *Ib Jorgenson - a Fashion retrospective* as well as associated marketing and labelling.

The Department also designed all exhibition graphics, labelling, directional signage, web banners and the educational element for the *Migrant Women – Shared Experiences* exhibition at the National Museum of Ireland - Country Life.

The Department completed the quarterly online pdfs of the Calendar of Events to promote the various featured events for each site. This is a joint project between the ICT, Education, Design and Photography Departments.

Posters and guides to promote lectures for both print and web were designed. Edits to existing guides were completed and reprinted. Re-labelling of the *Prehistoric Ireland* exhibition at the National Museum of Ireland- Archaeology commenced.

The Medieval Dublin Publications – *Viking Graves and Grave-Goods* was printed and launched in November 2015. The Design Department provided all artefact drawings, reconstruction drawings, image enhancement of external images, cover design and launch invitation

Drawings for the next volume in the Medieval Dublin Excavations series *Combs and Comb making in Viking Dublin* have been completed.

Drawings and maps were produced for the publication *Straw, Hay & Rushes in Irish Folk Tradition* including a large amount of scanning and enhancement of images.

Branding signage was designed and installed for the CRC, Swords and signage and labelling was produced across all four sites on an ongoing basis.

The Schools Calendar was completed in August 2015 and consisted of 8 online interactive pdf documents designed for the Education Department.

The Department provides support, advice and quality control for external design projects which, due to staffing levels, the Department is unable to undertake.

A number of transition year students were facilitated throughout the year including two students from the Bertha von Suttner Schule, Mörfelden-Walldorf, Germany.

ONLINE COLLECTIONS

A series of situational analysis reports reviewing relevant work in NMI were produced by the Online Collections Project Manager in the first quarter of the year to inform the next stages in developing an online collections presence for the National Museum that would be suitable for all National Museum collections.

An Online Collections Advisory Board, established by the Director with eleven representatives from across the museum, met monthly from February 2015.

Tasked with the aim of creating an NMI Online Collections Strategy, it worked in a consultative process with wider stakeholders to produce a strategy and draft implementation plan in August 2015. The strategy, for 2015 – 2017, was approved by the Director in December 2015. On foot of this, a programme for 2016-2017 to implement the NMI Online Collections Strategy was developed and agreed, subject to resource availability.

A project to establish and implement data standards, to develop and test a software system that would integrate data from the different collections databases used in the NMI and put collections online on the museum.ie platform, and to test and refine standards and systems, was initiated in July 2015. A project sponsor, manager and team were allocated. Progress has been slow due to insufficient budget and staff resources. Due to pressure on existing internal IT Department resources, delivery of elements of the necessary IT systems was outsourced to an external company. However, significant progress has been made in setting data standards and identifying the work and resources needed, both essential building blocks for future work.

EXHIBITIONS

National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History

Twenty Seven Years of the work of Irish Woodturner Emmet Kane

Emmet Kane works predominantly in native hardwoods, citing a particular fondness for Irish oak, which he textures and ebonises, gilds and colours. The exhibition explored Kane's remarkable journey of development as an artist and woodturner from 1988 through to the present day, and featured a huge array of work: from functional vessels and bowls, wall hangings, artistic pieces (both large and small), and recent small scale intimate works.

Opened March. Curated by Jennifer Goff with assistance from Patrick Boyle and Sarah Nolan.

Ib Jorgensen – A Fashion Retrospective

Throughout his long career Danish born designer Ib Jorgensen was at the forefront of the Irish fashion industry, as a founder member of the Irish Haute Couture Group in 1962 and later the Irish Designers' Association founded in 1982. This exhibition looked back at Ib's work, displaying a selection of some forty garments including day, cocktail and evening wear from across three and a half decades, supplemented with original fashion photography, film footage and illustrations.

Opened May. Curated by Alex Ward with assistance from Yvonne Doherty, David McKenna and Dora Murphy.

Christmas

The Museum's Neapolitan crib figures and 18th century painted sleigh were displayed in the foyer. In addition the room settings in the Irish Period Furniture gallery were dressed with festive decorations including those by Irish designer Emmet Kane.

December. Curated by Jennifer Goff with assistance from Patrick Boyle, Nieves Fernandez and Sarah Nolan.

National Museum of Ireland – Country Life

Cycling the Country

This new exhibition explores the history and developments in design of the bicycle.

To celebrate the recent opening of the 'Great Western Greenway' from Castlebar to Turlough Park, this new exhibition features bicycles and cycling accessories from the collections of the National Museum of Ireland.

It explores the history of the bicycle, and developments in design which led to the introduction of the safety bicycle - similar to the modern machine we know today.

Curated by Clodagh Doyle.

Migrant Women – Shared Experiences

In this exhibition adventures and challenges as well as realities and rich diversity of life for migrants are explored. This exhibition explores the rich traditions of eight women from around the world living in Mayo today. The women loaned objects for display in the exhibition. Through the medium of film they share the objects special meanings and insights into their lives. Their stories are juxtaposed with the experiences of young Irish emigrant women crossing the Atlantic to New York at the end of the 19th century which are explored in the exhibition in panels provided by Watson House in New York. The ‘Mission of Our Lady of the Rosary for the Protection of Irish Immigrant Girls’ assisted many of these women.

Opened August. Curated by Rosa Meehan.

OnSight

OnSight is an annual installation of artworks in and around the grounds of Turlough Park.

The theme for OnSight 2014 was ‘Welcome to the Stranger: Migrant people, places and spaces’ to coincide with the *Migrant Women* exhibition. OnSight is a collaboration between the National Museum of Ireland, Mayo County Council, Mayo Arts Squad and independent artists.

On display May – September. Co-ordinated by Rosa Meehan.

OPERATIONS

The Operations Department was established in December 2015, under the 2014 Restructuring Plan replacing the Administration Division. The Department is now responsible for Financial Management, Corporate Services, Information Communications Technology, Marketing and Facilities.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The 2015 allocations received from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht are as follows:

	€
o Pay & pensions	7,302,000
o Non Pay	4,044,000
o Capital	958,000
Total	€12,304,000

The 2015 Financial Statements show a net surplus for the year of €1,105,656 compared to a deficit of €386,305 for 2014.

The Finance Unit provided assistance and support to the Board's Audit Committee in carrying out its audit functions.

The Finance Unit prepared the Financial Statements for 2015 and accompanying audit file in May 2015. The C&AG audit of the 2015 Financial Statements took place during May & June 2016. The Museum's accounts in respect of the year ending 31st December 2015 were prepared in accordance with the requirements of section 35 of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997, are included in this report. The financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, the financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), as promulgated by Chartered Accountants Ireland. These are the first set of financial statements prepared in accordance with FRS 102.

The Finance Unit is responsible for the management of the procurement process of all National and EU procurements. To this end, the Museum is building internal expertise in the area of procurement. Structured procedures and policies are in place and are complemented with a filing system for procurement.

The Finance Unit is continually seeking to streamline operations, taking advantage of new technologies where budget constraints permit and by implementing recommendations from the C&AG and Internal Auditor, to ensure the integrity of the finance unit and its function.

On an annual basis, business plans are developed and implemented. These business plans encompass Risk Management and staff PMDS together with budgetary requirements.

HUMAN RESOURCE SHARED SERVICES UNIT

During the year the Human Resources Shared Services Unit continued to work closely with the Museum's Divisional Heads on various issues and with the Museum's Corporate Affairs Unit, established in December 2015.

Refund of Fees

Throughout the academic year 2014/2015, 1 staff member undertook an approved third level course of education and availed of the Percentage Refund of Fees Scheme in accordance with the Department of Finance guidelines.

Ethics in Public Office

Staff in designated positions of employment and Museum Board members complied with the Ethics in Public Office Acts of 1995 and 2001.

Freedom of Information (FOI)

The NMI responded to 6 requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

Industrial Relations

The Museum continued to avail of the Advisory Services of the Labour Relations Commission to promote good employment relations practices in workplaces and deliver specific services in that regard including reviews of industrial relations, customised training, facilitation, mediation and advice on good industrial relations practice generally. The working group, comprising members of the Advisory Service, Management and two staff associations met throughout 2015 to revise the Museum's Grievance Policy.

Volunteers

The Museum continued to avail of the experience of volunteers throughout the year across all sites. The Museum recognises that volunteers are a valuable asset and the Museum's Volunteer Committee ensures that best practice is being followed.

Job Bridge

JobBridge Internships commenced in both the Marketing and Education Departments.

Health and Wellbeing Initiative

The National Museum held a series of staff presentations at three of its sites over a four month period as part of a Health and Wellbeing Initiative.

An informal launch of the programme took place in both Collins Barracks and Turlough Park in August 2015. The initiative was low cost as the National Museum availed of Government agencies and charities where appropriate. The staff presentations coincided with the formation of a new social committee and the organisation of social activities.

The topics for the presentations were suggested by the staff members and comprised:

- Wellness at Work
- Cancer Prevention
- Healthy Eating Guidelines
- Managing Monies

At the end of each presentation, attendees were asked to complete an evaluation form which included suggestions for consideration for running a similar programme in 2016. Overall, there was very positive feedback from staff to the programme.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

Continuing throughout 2015 with a reduced staffing level of a Head of Digital Information Systems and a Procurement and Administration Officer,

the ICT department maintained operations, optimising the availability of systems within extremely adverse circumstances. In addition, over 50 new PC users were added to the corporate domain to provide electronic access for non-office staff to the new shared government online payroll shared system and to accommodate some new staff, volunteers and contractors.

The ICT department continued to outsource the IT helpdesk and was forced to delay software development, implementation and Intranet projects. The department's operations include the management across six geographical sites of all telecommunication and information systems, including custom and off-the-shelf applications portfolio, IT helpdesk, asset management, risk management, business continuity, bandwidth optimisation, back-ups, server and network infrastructure, interactive and audio-visual systems, point-of-sale systems, and the maintenance and coordination of the website museum.ie and of the Museum's YouTube Channels. It also works closely with the Marketing department to improve the synergies between the website and social media platforms.

The ICT department also participated to and led a number of projects to drive positive and strategic changes detailed below:

It implemented a new wide area network resulting in better value-for-money bandwidth in the Dublin area. It further consolidated its telecommunication lines.

It also helped implementing a new environmental control system for the Museum's collections in exhibitions and storage areas. It continued to lead the project management of the digitisation of the historical collections, composed of 2D artefacts and archives (40,000 pages digitised). It continued to participate to the online collection workgroup and support the continuing development of associated systems.

The ICT department launched a new website platform providing training to all departments to prepare for a more decentralised content management. The launch of this new platform was delayed in previous years due to resource constraints, and represents a major breakthrough, increasing dramatically the number of images and Irish language content and quality. The double-digit growth previously observed for seven years in a row in terms of number of visits continued in its eight year for its website museum.ie, with high growth during 2015, most notably from continental Europe, which was a different trends from previous years, when the growth was mostly seen in Irish Diaspora countries (US, UK, Canada and Australia).

The ICT department supported the creation of the microsite *Bronze Age Handling Box* (launched in autumn 2015) and the publishing online of four very detailed virtual visits of the Natural History building including two balconies that are currently closed to the public. It led the software development and/or content of an overhauling of its alter and export license system, of a virtual tour of former exhibition *High Crosses*, and of an online version of the *1916 Roll of Honour*, all aimed to be launched online during 2016.

The ICT department also participated (through designing or setting up interactives and/or website pages) to all temporary exhibitions and associated events such as the *Ib Jorgensen – A Fashion Retrospective*, *Twenty Seven Years of the work of Irish Woodturner Emmet Kane*, *Cycling the Country*, *Migrant Women – Shared Experiences*, etc. It reengineered a number of interactives in existing exhibitions (the Museum has over 140 electronic interactives across its four public sites). It also provided the standards it uses across the Museum's sites for Interactives to the project team for the exhibition *Proclaiming a Republic: The 1916 Rising*, to be launched in 1916, and provided PCs and internet access to enable bookings for the two runs of *Pals – The Irish at Gallipoli* (ANU Productions).

To improve communication and collaboration internally, ICT further increased the use of the Intranet, mostly around projects. Externally, ICT management represented the National Museum to DRI's workshops and stakeholders meetings, and its board at the launch of Culture 2025.

The ICT department would like to thank the colleagues, trainees, volunteers and contractors that made progress possible in some areas during 2015. The staffing situation and consequential standards unfortunately remain lower-than-critical as this report is written.

MARKETING

2015 saw a record number of visitors to each of the 4 sites. The total figure of over 1.2 million visitors represented a 10% increase on 2014 and it was the fifth consecutive year in which the Museum attracted over 1 million visitors. This was a great achievement given the limitations on the marketing budgets and staffing levels. This was in part due to the consistent public relations campaigns throughout the year for the public programming, events, special exhibitions and permanent exhibition galleries. The policy of free admission should not be underestimated as another key driver for the increase in visitor numbers. Visitor breakdown by site was as follows:

SITE	2014	2015	% Change 2014-2015
Archaeology, Kildare Street	447,137	475,057	6%
Natural History, Merrion Street	300,272	320,528	7%
Decorative Arts & History, Collins Barracks	243,172	295,820	22%
<i>(Military History</i>	<i>105,978</i>	<i>116,438</i>	<i>10%)</i>
<i>(Asgard</i>	<i>44,009</i>	<i>44,331</i>	<i>42%)</i>

Country Life, Turlough Park	96,857	119,839	24%
Total	1,087,438	1,211,244	10%

The Marketing Department gained extensive PR coverage in national, regional and international print and broadcast media, including a number of popular exhibitions and photo calls.

NMI – Archaeology, Kildare Street

- ‘National Museum of Ireland at Kildare Street celebrates its 125th anniversary’

NMI – Natural History, Merrion Street

- ‘3D Virtual Visit to the NMI – NH Goes Online’

NMI – Decorative Arts & History, Collins Barracks

- Exhibition Opening: *Recovered Voices – Stories of the Irish at War 1914 - 1915*
- ‘National Museum of Ireland announces details of its 1916 Public Programme’
- Exhibition Opening: *Ib Jorgensen - A Fashion Retrospective*

NMI – Country Life, Turlough Park, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

NMI-Country Life gained extensive PR coverage in national and regional print and broadcast media. The Museum's temporary exhibitions, Preserving the Peace (which ran until June) and Migrant Women – Shared Experiences, (opened by Minister Áodhán Ó Ríordáin in September) proved to be very popular and attracted visitors from all over the country. Extensive programmes of events were run in conjunction with both exhibitions.

The Café extension was also the location for a number of quality art exhibitions during the year.

The Castlebar to Turlough section of the Great Western Greenway was officially opened by An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny in May. This brings the Greenway right into the grounds of the Museum. It is very popular with both local people and tourists and brings new visitors into the Museum.

Féile na Tuaithe was held on the second last weekend of May and drew record crowds – 10,000 on the Saturday and 18,000 on Sunday.

Corporate events were held throughout the year and included the presentation of prizes by Mayo Mental Health and book launches and corporate meetings and trainings days.

The theme of Culture Night 2014 focused on the multi-cultural character of Irish society. A large crowd attended.

Traveller Pride Week was held in the Museum in October and was sponsored by Mayo Traveller Action Group (in association with the Dept. Justice).

Extensive networking was undertaken with trade partners including the accommodation sector, business sector etc. Tour operators were specifically targeted. New relationships were established with NUIG, Western Development Commission and Údarás na Gaeltachta in particular and potential projects are being explored with each of these. Staff from the Museum were invited to participate in the Advisory Committee preparing for Teagasc's national 1916 commemoration event.

A selection of Photo Call and Press Notices:

- Stamps Commemorate 1915 Gallipoli Landings
- Hibernian United Service Club's WW1 Memorial Unveiling Event at The National Museum of Ireland
- Volkswagen Ireland, a partner of the National Museum of Ireland, (created four special videos for each of the museum locations).
- The Great War Signal Corps
- The Bronze Age Handling Box Project

Corporate events were held throughout the year including high profile drinks receptions and dinners. Various government departments also hired facilities for training courses.

Filming requests and photo shoots were also accommodated where possible, to include the following TV series: *Penny Dreadful*, *Ripper Street*, *Rebellion* and many more smaller productions which assisted in generating much needed additional revenue.

Culture Night attracted large crowds across our three Dublin sites. This coincided with the NMI - Decorative Arts & History, Collins Barracks where we worked closely with a local community group, The Complex.

Extensive networking was undertaken with trade partners including Tourism Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, Dublin City Council as well as the accommodation sector, business sectors etc. Tour operators and cruise liners were targeted for the Dublin sites.

A Project Team from the Dublin Institute of Technology conducted a very useful study of our Digital and Social Media platforms in Collins Barracks and it is hoped to implement some of the findings from this research in 2016.

In terms of social media there was a steady increase in followers, with Twitter increasing from 20,379 to 25,331 and Facebook from 9,799 to 12,733. The new website launch in the latter months of 2015 played an integral role in the development of Digital Marketing & Social Media. The development of a Digital Marketing & Social Media Campaign played a critical role in promoting a number of exhibitions on line including *Recovered Voices– Stories of the Irish at War 1914 - 1915* and *Preserving the Peace*.

The Digital Marketing & Social Media world is ever evolving and in order to maintain a competitive standing there is need for continuous training and technical updating.

The three museum cafés (located at Collins Barracks, Kildare Street and Turlough Park) provided the public with a quality service along with the Museum's retail outlets at all three sites

In terms of sponsorship, the NMI renewed a 3-year contract with Volkswagen Group Ireland. This partnership includes a financial assistance as well as assistance with promotion and advertising. In return, VW availed of some of the site facilities in the NMI sites.

FACILITIES (ACCOMMODATION AND SECURITY)

Facility Management embraces the key challenges of cost-effectiveness and productivity, improving efficiency in areas as diverse as energy conservation and effective budget management. While in the main strategically driven, the Department has to react to daily challenges in relation to general maintenance and upkeep of buildings across the Museum's eight sites.

The Department encompasses a huge range of business tasks including security, health and safety, building maintenance, utilities, accommodation space planning, project management and procurement.

It carries out a comprehensive preventative maintenance programme to ensure that every facility component is maintained and repaired in a cost effective manner.

Janitorial, window cleaning, insect and rodent controls are now part of a comprehensive maintenance programme. In this regard the Museum is fortunate to have the assistance and services of the Building Management Services (BMS) team from OPW who carry out maintenance and repairs of our historic buildings – very often responding to several requests for assistance daily.

In light of the budgetary constraints that were imposed on the National Museum of Ireland in early 2015, the Facilities Department reviewed its portfolio and recommended some revenue generating initiatives to bolster internal revenue stream. Hiring out of car parking spaces and making the sites (particularly Collins Barracks) available for filming were two initiatives introduced. The latter represented a welcome income stream and for the most part proved very popular despite the inconvenience to staff at times.

PUBLICATIONS

Cahill, M.

‘Here comes the sun...- solar symbolism in early Bronze Age Ireland’, *Archaeology Ireland*, **29**, **1**, 26-33.

Goff, J.

Emmet Kane - A Journey. Twenty-seven years of Irish Woodturning. National Museum of Ireland, Dublin.

Goff, J.

‘Emmet Kane- Design Perspective’, *Irish Arts Review*, **32**, **1**, 91.

Goff, J.

‘Gray Today’, *Modern magazine*, New York, Brant publications, **Fall**, 131-137.

Goff, J.

‘Icon of the month - Eileen Gray’s Non-Conformist chair’, *Icon*, London, Media 10 Ltd, August, 28.

Goff, J.

‘Gray Matters’, *The Magazine Antiques*, New York, Brant publications, **May/June**, 112-117.

Halpin. A.

‘The Ballinderry bow: an under-appreciated Viking weapon?’, in Howard B. Clarke & Ruth Johnson (eds), *The Vikings in Ireland and beyond*, Dublin, 151-60.

Halpin. A.

Review of Booker, S. & Peters, C. *Tales of Medieval Dublin*. *Irish Arts Review*, **31, 4**, 146.

Halpin. A & N. Gordon Bowe

‘From the ashes’. *Irish Arts Review*, **31, 4**, 30-33.

Joye, L.

‘The Lusitania’, *History Ireland*, **May/June**, 43.

Joye, L.

Recovered Voices, Stories of the Irish at War exhibition catalogue, National Museum of Ireland, Dublin.

Joye, L.

Review of Seán A. Murphy, *Kilmichael, A Battlefield Study*. *History Ireland*, **July/August**, 67.

Joye, L. and Malone, B.

‘Displaying the Nation: The 1916 Exhibition at the National Museum of Ireland, 1932-1991’, in Godson, Lisa and Brück, Joanna (eds.): *Making 1916: Material and Visual Culture of the Easter Rising*, Liverpool University Press, 182-195.

Joye, L. and Malone, B.

‘Recovered Voices: The Stories of the Irish at War 1914-16 in *Stair 2015*’, *The Journal of the History Teachers Association of Ireland*.

Joye, L.

‘UN 60 from Congo to the Golan Heights – Celebrating 60 years of Irish peacekeeping’, *An Cosantóir*, December.

Kolb, C., Scheyer, T.M., Lister, A.M., Azorit, C., de Vos, J., Schlingemann, M.A.J., Rössner, G.E., Monaghan, N.T., Sánchez-Villagra, M.R.

‘Growth in fossil and extant deer and implications for body size and life history evolution’. *BMC Evolutionary Biology* **15**:19 (DOI 10.1186/s12862-015-0295-3).

McConnell, B., Parkes, M.A., Crowley, Q. and Rushton, A.

‘No Exploits back-arc basin in the Iapetus suture zone of Ireland’. *Journal of the Geological Society*, August 4, 2015, doi:10.1144/jgs2015-044

McDermott, Y.

‘Kinalehin, Co. Galway - A history of Ireland’s only Carthusian priory and its Conversion to a Franciscan friary’, *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, **142/143**, 100-113.

Mulhall, I.

‘Bogs’, in Metheny, K. and Beaudry, M.C. (eds.) *Archaeology of Food: An Encyclopedia*. Maryland, USA, 64-67.

Mullarkey, P.

‘X-ray fluorescence analysis of the non-ferrous artefacts’, in Harrison, S. and Ó Floinn, R., *Viking Graves and Grave-Goods in Ireland*, 749-57.

O’Dowd, A.

Straw, Hay and Rushes in Irish Folk Tradition, Irish Academic Press, Dublin.

Ó Floinn, R (with S. Harrison)

Viking Graves and Grave-Goods in Ireland, National Museum of Ireland, Medieval

Dublin Excavations 1962-81, Ser B, Vol. 11, Dublin, 2014

Parkes, M.A.

‘Minerals, rocks and fossils, and geological curios’. In: MacGregor, A. (ed.) *The Cobbe: an Anglo-Irish country house museum: 178-199*. Paul Mellon Centre and Yale University Press, New Haven and London.

Sikora, M.

‘A hoard of Viking-age silver ‘ring-money’ from Lurgabrack, Horn Head, Co. Donegal’. *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, 142, 191-6.

Ward, A.

‘Ib Jorgensen: A Fashion Retrospective’, *Irish Antiques Journal*, **8, Autumn**, 52 – 53.

Whitty, A.

‘Centred: An Exhibition of Ceramics in Ireland in Ceramics’, *Art and Perception*, **25, 3**, September-November, 92-97.

Whitty, A.

Sean Campbell’, *Sean Campbell Selected Works. The Sentinel Project. The Glass Canvas Project*, Published by Sean Campbell. 1-2.

Whitty, A.

‘The Albert Bender Collection of Asian Art in the National Museum of Ireland, Dublin’, in Steineck, Tomoe Irene Maria; Kreiner, Josef and Steineck, Raji C. (eds.) *Japanese Collections in European Museums. Vol. IV: Buddhist Art. Reports from the International Symposium ‘Japanese Buddhist Objects in European Collections and Their Impact on the European Image of Japan’*, Palac Lochow, Poland 2012, 2015, pp. 123-132.

Whitty, A.

‘The Corning Museum of Glass Notable Acquisitions 2014’. The Corning Museum of Glass, New York, 2015. Entries on 6-13, 15-19, 22-23, 30-31.

BOARD OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

Dr John O'Mahony SC (Chairman)*

Mr Gerard Collins*

Ms Mary Crotty

Ms Máirín de Brún

Professor Dervilla Donnelly

Ms Eileen Jackson*

Mr Olivier Kazmierczak*

Mr Paul Kelly*

Mr Eamonn McEneaney*

Mr Fergus McKenna O'Hagan SC*

Dr Chris Nicholas

Ms Mary Sleeman*

Mr Eamon Stack*

Professor Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh

Professor Peter Woodman

* Denotes Board members' whose term of office expired in October 2015

STAFF DIRECTORY

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Director

Ragnall Ó Floinn

Director's PA

Vacancy

Secretary to the Board

Vacancy

COLLECTIONS AND LEARNING DIVISION

Head of Collections and Learning

Anthony Read

ART AND INDUSTRY

Keeper

Dr Audrey Whitty

Assistant Keepers Grade I

Labhrás Joye

Alex Ward

Assistant Keepers Grade II

Jennifer Goff

Sandra Heise

Technical Assistant

Sarah Nolan

IRISH ANTIQUITIES

Keeper

Mary Cahill

Assistant Keepers Grade I

Dr Andy Halpin

Nessa O'Connor

Assistant Keepers Grade II

Isabella Mulhall

Fiona Reilly

Maeve Sikora

Senior Technical Assistant

Margaret Lannin

Clerical Officer

Eamonn McLoughlin

IRISH FOLKLIFE

Manager/Keeper

Tony Candon

Assistant Keepers Grade I

Vacancy

Assistant Keepers Grade II

Clodagh Doyle

Rosa Meehan

Technical Assistant

Sharon Quinn

Executive Officer

Catherine Carney

Clerical Officers

Liam Doherty

Maeve McNicholas

NATURAL HISTORY

Keeper

Nigel Monaghan

Assistant Keeper Grade II

Dr Matthew Parkes

Technical Assistant

Dr Leona Leonard

REGISTRATION

Registrar

Judith Finlay

Collections Resource Centre Manager

Judith Finlay

Archivist

Emer Ní Cheallaigh

Documentation Officers

Noel Campbell

Sylviane Vaucheret

Clerical Officers

Frances Devoy

Paul Fowley

Ann Vaughan

Documentation Assistants

Eimear Ashe

Emma Crosbie

Joanne Hamilton

Chris Harbidge

Brenda Malone

CONSERVATION

Head of Conservation

Vacancy

Assistant Keepers Grade II

Patrick Boyle

Dr Karena Morton

Dr Paul Mullarkey

Dora Murphy

Carol Smith

Assistant Conservators

Nieves Fernandez

Hannah Power

Karen Wilson

On-line Collections Manager

Deirdre Power

OPERATIONS DIVISION

Head of Operations

Seamus Lynam

Clerical Officer

Finbarr Connolly

Finance Manager

Michael Conway

Finance Officer

Olivia O'Connell

Clerical Officers

Niall Sheehy

Human Resources Administrator

Jennifer O'Connor

Clerical Officer

Maria Pringle

Head of Digital Information Systems

Olivier Kazmierczak

Clerical Officer

David McKenna

MARKETING

Head of Marketing

Ann Daly

Marketing Executives

Bernie Byron

Maureen Gaule

Corporate Services Executive

Vacancy

Retail Manager

Susan O'Mahony

Senior Sales Assistants

Bernadette Gallagher

Ailis McKiernan

Sales Assistants

Siobhan Collins

Tracey Curran

Philomena Doran

Angela Hart

Jean O'Boyle

Celestina Sassu

Veronica Skeffington

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Head of Education

Lorraine Comer

Education & Outreach Officers

Helen Beaumont

Siobhan Pierce

Education Assistants

Edith Andrees

Geraldine Breen

Tom Doyle

Lorna Elms

Holly Furlong

Brendan Mc Donnell

Eimir O'Brien

Jennifer O'Mahony

Aoife O'Toole

Patricia Ryan

PHOTOGRAPHY

Senior Photographer

Valerie Dowling

DESIGN

Senior Graphic Artist

John Murray

Graphic Artists

Yvonne Doherty

Michael Heffernan

FACILITIES

Facilities Manager

Gregory Kelly

Head Attendant

Paddy Matthews

Senior Attendants

Sean Kelly

Rory Loughnane

Deirdre McGowan

Séamus O'Donnell

Declan O'Reilly

Brendan Torsney

Telephonist

Giovanna Bosis

Service Attendants

Raymond Gearty

Patrick Moore

Cleaners

Martina Connolly

Catherine Finnegan

Mandy Johnson

Attendants

Joseph Brennan

Martin Byrne

Niall Byrne

Peter Byrne

Conor Carlisle

Marcus Cashin

Leigh Coughlan

Henry Cowap

William Doyle

Michael Dunne

Paul Fennell

Padraig Fleming

Eoin Foley

Frank Foran

Andrew Gallan

Mary Gaughan

Henry Gillen

Enda Greenan

Henry Hackett

Sean Hallinan

Ken Hayes

Dylan Hoctor

Angela Jordan

Christopher Keenan

Vincent Kiely

Fergal Leahy

Brendan Lynch

Majella Lynch

Keith MacDonald

Daragh Magee

Mark McDonnell

Alan McKeever

Emmet McNamara

Olivia Merriman

Oliver Murphy

Thomas Murphy

John O’Keeffe

Eamonn Reel

Derek Reid

James Reynolds

Alan Scully

Greg Stevenson

Lorraine Stewart

Dominic Swaine

Linda Switzer

Liam Walsh

Neil Walsh

Noreen Ward

Caretaker

Michael Byrne

DEVELOPMENT

Head of Development

Anne Grady