

## *The Salamanca Archive:*

### Arrangement

The collection contains over 50,000 individual items including loose material, bound and unbound volumes and is contained in 101 archival boxes

The archives of the Irish Colleges in Spain came to Maynooth mainly in *legajos* or bundles as arranged in the nineteenth century by the then rector of the college Rev William MacDonald. Some were tied up with string, some in portfolios of blue marbled papers, and some still as they had been left in the drawers and pigeon-holes of the Rev William MacDonalds writing desk<sup>1</sup>. Many are written on rag handmade paper, using ferro-gallic ink, and a variety of paper is evident: fina and coarse, laid and wove. Several volumes are vellum-bound with leather thongs and clasps and had-scripted titles on the cover.<sup>2</sup>

The archive contains the formal records regarding the administrative, financial and general administration of the Irish College over a period of over 300 years, along with the personal records of the Rectors who passed through the colleges lifetime.

Originally the archives were first catalogued in 1874, during the rectorship of Rev William McDonald and additions were made to this list c.1880's. The original list arranges the archives in *legajos* (bundles of files) with each *legajo* divided into smaller levels called *carpetas* (files). On arrival to Maynooth the *carpetas* were contained within two boards, made of cardboard and tied together, which formed a *legajo*. These were taken apart on arrival to Maynooth by the staff in the Russell library and placed into acid free archival boxes for preservation. Therefore a *legajo* was created into an archival box.

In Rev MacDonald's list there are two series of *legajos*. The first series uses arabic numbers (reference number **SP**) and the second series uses roman numerals (reference

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<sup>1</sup> This writing desk eventually made its way to St Patricks College, Maynooth and is now displayed in the Russell library, Maynooth.

<sup>2</sup> Richardson, 'Salamanca Archive', 114.

number **SP/S**). There is no apparent reason for the two numbering sequences, neither in the information contained nor in the dates covered by each set of numbers.

The online catalogue has retained this original arrangement. The first section of the collection is referenced with **SP** (Salamanca Papers) and the second is referenced with **SP/S**. The decision to keep to the arrangement of the original list was made down to the need of keeping the provenance of the collection intact. Rev MacDonald's list is quite comprehensive in detail and a great deal of work went into listing and arranging the collection. Another reason to keep the original arrangement is that researchers have all ready worked with the collection and have used the original referencing numbers in some publications (these original references numbers have been included as 'AltRefNo' on online catalogue).

In Rev MacDonalds original listing the first section, **SP**, is much more detailed than the second section **SP/S**. In his list we find for each '*legajo*' a short scope and content description, a date and a size of the '*carpeta*'. On the other hand, the majority of the second section, **SP/S**, had been largely untouched/catalogued by Rev MacDonald as time went on.

Therefore, the original reference numbers have been adhered to for section **SP** and new reference numbers had to be used for series **SP/S** (new reference numbers used start from **SP/S/45** to **SP/S/94**). However all the original reference numbers (from Rev MacDonald's list) are included on the online catalogue in the 'AltRefNo' field.

Section **SP** contains mainly administrative papers concerning the financial administration of the college, official letters and petitions, account books and receipts. Account books and receipts are plentiful and throw a light on the day to day running of the colleges with information on general expenses, rents and taxes paid on properties owned by the college, staff wages and income generated from bequests, rents and produce. **SP/1** (*Legajo I*) is one of the few *legajos* in series **SP** which contains documents directly concerning staff and students and they include student oaths, baptismal certificates, ordination certificates, private papers from Rev James F

Gartlan and papers concerning reconciliation of various heretics with the Catholic church ('before 1711').<sup>3</sup>

The rest of series **SP** is again mainly administrative in nature. SP/10 (*Legajo X*) contains documents relating to the property owned and bought by the Irish College, Salamanca as well as accounts of money being collected at masses, SP/12 contains copies of official letters and petitions including various royal orders and decrees.

SP/13 (*Legajo XIII*) is a series of letters that date from 1619-1871 to and from varying rectors of the college. There are 701 letters arranged in chronological order from 1625-1871, followed by letters with no date. SP/14-SP/20 (*Legajos XIV – XX*) consist of almost 6000 letters, written mainly in Spanish. They are arranged in alphabetical order by the name of the writer, the collected letters of each writer being brought together in a folder.<sup>4</sup>

From SP/21-SP/30 (*Legajo XXI-XXX*) we see the *legajos* being categorised under the subseries of the other smaller colleges in Spain including Alcalá de Henares, Madrid, Santiago de Compostela, Seville, Valladolid and Salamanca. These *legajos* deal primarily with the administration of the colleges, the lands that they owned and farmed, account books, invoices and receipts of daily expenses but there are exceptions to this with some files dealing with student life (SP/23, SP/26, *Legajo XXIII, XXVI*).

Moving on to the second series **SP/S** a large part of this series had been listed on Rev MacDonald's original listing (SP/S/1 – SP/S/40, *Legajo 1- Legajo 40*). SP/S/1 (*Legajo1*) contains official royal '*cedulas*', bulls and privileges and a copy of the

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<sup>3</sup> The student oaths have been listed first by Salamanca college rector Rev D.J. O'Doherty (*Archivium Hibernicum* ii (1913), pp 1-36, iii (1914), pp 87-112 and iv (1915), pp (1-58) and more recently by Hugh Fenning OP, the archivist of the Irish Dominican province, published a Salamanca student list (1592-1638) in *Archivium Hibernicum* lxii (2009), pp 7-36.

<sup>4</sup> 'The Salamanca Letters: A catalogue of correspondence (1619 – 1871) from the Archives of the Irish Colleges in Spain in the library of St Patricks College, Maynooth Ireland' The list of letters can be consulted in the Russell library, St Patricks College, Maynooth.

official letter from Philip II authorising the foundation of an Irish College in Salamanca for the education of Irish Catholic priests.<sup>5</sup>

SP/S/17 – SP/S/41 contain mainly administrative papers from all the Irish Colleges around Spain. Again account books, receipts, invoices are prevalent throughout. *Legajos* to note are SP/S/27 (*Legajo 27*) containing documents in relation to the bequest given by Dermot O’Sullivan Beare to the Irish College, Salamanca.<sup>6</sup> and SP/S/27 (*Legajo 27*) which contains material relating to the patronage given to the Irish College, Seville by the Archdeacon of Seville ‘*Don Felix Guzman*’.

From SP/S/42 onwards we start seeing the collection being divided into subseries under the name of each rectors in chronological order starting with Rev Patrick Curtis and ending with the last rector Rev Joseph Ranson. Each subseries is a rector and within these subseries we find mainly correspondence to and from the rectors, both personal and administrative in nature. However, the majority of correspondence within these subseries are addressed to the Bishops of Ireland in relation to students of the Irish College in Salamanca. They speak of new, existing and past students of the college and sometimes include copies of the students birth certificates, dimissorial letters and ordination certificates. The rectors papers also include accounts and large amount of receipts detailing the colleges expenses.

SP/S/93 (*Legajo 52/1*) is worth mentioning as it contains much earlier documents from the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. These documents mainly deal with the history and foundation of the Irish College and were extracted by Rev Alexander McCabe, Rev Denis J O’Doherty and Rev Joseph Ranson who all at some stage undertook some research work about the history of the Irish College in Salamanca. They have been kept in place since the rectors accompanying papers and notes may elucidate the context of the documents.

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<sup>5</sup> There is an obvious gap in the catalogue between SP/S/4 (*Legajo 4*) and SP/S/17 (*Legajo 17*) which have been missing since the Salamanca papers came to St Patrick’s College, Maynooth. However, microfilm copies have been located in the ‘*Archivo Histórico de la Universidad de Salamanca*’. It is hoped that St Patricks College will be able to acquire copies of these and added to the catalogue.

<sup>6</sup> The archive collection also contains a large oil portrait of Dermot O’Sullivan Beare which is now hanging in the Presidents Office of St Patricks College, Maynooth.

Annual reports of the Irish College, Salamanca can be found in SP/S/50 (*Legajo S46*) and are a rich source of information in relation to the story of the college at time time as well as for events that happened both in Spain and Ireland in general. They also include photographs of the '*Arzobispo Fonseca*' building.

The last subseries S/94 contains photographs mainly from the earlier years of the twentieth century and include group photographs of students, visitors to the Irish College in Salamanca and of the '*Arzobispo de Fonseca*' building in Salamanca.