

The Worth Library Trust

CRA number 20066093

Charity number CHY 17643

Annual Report of the Trustees 2018

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Objectives and Activities

The Worth Library Trust, established by the order of the High Court, preserves and maintains the Worth Library and the Worth Library Collection as a unit in its original form and in its original location in Doctor Steevens' Hospital, Dublin, for the purpose of advancing public education and a greater general knowledge and understanding of science, literature and the arts by enabling scholars and the general public to have access to a rare example of a uniquely preserved private library of an eighteenth century scholar and physician which is of unique national and international importance.

The main activities revolve around public education and research in the context of expanding the profile of the library, nationally and internationally, as a centre for the history of medicine, science and the history of the book.

Background to the Edward Worth Library

The book collection of Dr Edward Worth (1676-1733) is preserved in Dr Steevens' Hospital, Dublin, currently the headquarters of the Health Service Executive. The Library's collection, one of the treasures of the nation's cultural inheritance, is comprised of c. 4,4300 volumes, the earliest dating from 1475. Most are preserved in original bindings.

Edward Worth was a Dublin physician who collected medical books ancient and modern (i.e. 18th century), important contributions to the study of related sciences, philosophy, the classics and history. The collection reaches back to the origins of printing itself and most of the books are notable for their fine bindings as well as their printed content. Following Dr. Worth's death in February 1733, a room was designed and built to accommodate the collection on the first floor of the then unfinished Dr Steevens' Hospital, and the original book-shelves, cases, glass panes and other fittings remain today as they were in the 1730s.

Achievements in 2018

The following activities were carried out in 2018:

1.1. Teaching and Lectures

1.1.1. Each year academics are encouraged to bring their classes to the Worth Library where they can utilise the resources for the history of the book, medicine and science. During these visits the Librarian participates with teachers to teach their students about the resources of the Worth Library, in particular the history of bookbinding. This year the Librarian gave a class on book history to postgraduate students from the Department of English, National University of Ireland, Galway, and to the students of the M. Phil in Art+, Trinity College, Dublin.

1.1.2. The Librarian is also heavily involved in drawing attention to the resources of the Worth Library for historians of medicine. This year she gave a class on the history of medicine to first year medical students in the School of Medicine, Trinity College, Dublin.

1.1.3. On 13 September 2018 the Librarian gave a paper on 'The Edward Worth Library: Dr Edward Worth, an Early Eighteenth-Century Physician's Life'. This was part of the Rathfarnham Castle lecture series.

1.1.4. On 23 November 2018 the Librarian gave a paper on 'Botany and Gardens at the Edward Worth Library, Dublin'. This was part of the one-day conference 'Gardens and Gardening in Early Modern Ireland' which was arranged by the Worth Library.

1.1.5. On 30 November 2018 the Librarian gave a presentation on online exhibitions at the Worth Library. This was part of the Rare Books Group of Ireland's annual seminar.

1.1.6. The Librarian of the Worth Library, Dr Mark Sweetnam and Dr Jane Carroll (Department of English, TCD) submitted a successful application to

TCD to present a MOOC on the 'History of the Book, 1450-1800'. Work for this commenced in Winter 2017 and it will go live in 2019.

1.2. The Edward Worth Library Seminar Series 2018.

1.2.1. 21 March: Dr Ralph Stevens (UCD): 'Histories, sermons, and bibles: religious texts in the Worth collection'.

1.2.2. 5 April: Dr Michael Schonhardt (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Freiburg): 'A scientific revolution before Galilei? How the astrolabe transformed 11th century science'. This was the Medieval and Renaissance Medicine and Science Lecture, which is a joint lecture between the Edward Worth Library and the Department of History, Trinity College, Dublin.

1.2.3. 13 April: Dr Ida Milne (Maynooth University): 'The 1918-1918 influenza pandemic in Ireland - medicine, politics, and people'. This was a joint initiative of the Edward Worth Library and the Dr Steevens' Hospital Library.

1.2.4. 22 May: Dr Jane Stevens Crawshaw (Oxford Brookes University): 'The State of the environment: Public Health and Technology in Renaissance Genoa'.

1.2.5. 3 July: Professor Mordechai Feingold (Caltech): 'Science and Satire in Early Modern England'.

1.3. Colloquia and Conferences at the Edward Worth Library

1.3.1. 'English Book bindings at the Edward Worth Library'. This workshop was given by Dr David Pearson on 16 November 2018 and took place in the Worth Library.

1.3.2. 'Gardens and Gardening in Early Modern Ireland'. This conference was held on 23 November 2018 in the Boardroom of Dr Steevens' Hospital. Tours of the Worth Library were provided on the day for participants. The programme is provided in Annex A.

1.3.3. 'The Robert Boyle Winter School at the Worth Library'. This conference took place on 7 December 2018 and included papers by Professor Michael Hunter and Dr Anna Marie Roos. The programme is provided in Annex B.

1.4. Exhibitions

1.4.1. 'John Strype at the Edward Worth Library'. This online exhibition was curated by Dr Ralph Steevens (Worth Library Research Fellow for 2017) and was launched on 21 March 2018. <http://edwardworthlibrary.ie/exhibitions-at-the-worth/smaller-exhibitions/john-strype-at-the-edward-worth-library/>

1.4.2. 'Reading Euclid at the Edward Worth Library'. This online exhibition was curated by Dr Elizabethanne Boran and was launched on 21 June 2018 as part of the University of Oxford project Seeing Euclid, which was a networked exhibition of Euclidean texts in libraries across Ireland and Britain.

<http://edwardworthlibrary.ie/exhibitions-at-the-worth/smallerexhibitions/reading-euclid-at-the-edward-worth-library/>

1.4.3. 'Farriery and Horses at the Edward Worth Library'. This online exhibition was curated by the EUSA intern, Ms Michelle White, Wake Forest University, North Carolina, USA. It was launched on 9 August 2018 to coincide with the Dublin Horse Show:

<http://edwardworthlibrary.ie/exhibitions-at-the-worth/smallerexhibitions/farriery-and-horses-at-the-edward-worth-library/>

1.4.4. 'Mythical Creatures at the Edward Worth Library'. Our annual online exhibition was curated by Dr Elizabethanne Boran and Mr Antoine Mac Gaothín. It was launched on 21 September 2018 to mark Culture Night. <https://mythicalcreatures.edwardworthlibrary.ie/>

1.4.5. 'English book bindings in the Edward Worth Library: A small exhibition in the display cases was on view to mark the seminar by Dr David Pearson on the same topic on 16 November 2018.

1.4.6. 'Botany and Gardens at the Edward Worth Library': This small exhibition was produced in conjunction with the conference 'Gardens and Gardening in Early Modern Ireland' which took place on 23 November 2018.

1.5. Other Online Initiatives

1.5.1. Books of the Month for 2018 are available on the Worth Library website: <http://edwardworthlibrary.ie/book-of-the-month/2018-books-of-the-month/> .

1.5.2. July 2018: Jacques Rohault. Text by Ms Rachel Fitzgerald, final year BA student at Dublin City University.

1.5.3. August 2018: The Anatomy of an Horse: Text by Ms Michelle White, Fourth Year student, Wake Forest University, North Carolina, USA.

1.5.4. September 2018: Cabinet de la Bibliotheque de Sainte Geneviève: Text by Ms Michelle White, Fourth Year student, Wake Forest University, North Carolina, USA.

These items, as well as notices for the annual web exhibition, were placed on the Facebook page of the Worth Library.

1.6. Research Fellowships appointed in 2018

1.6.1. Mr Jeremy Schneider (Princeton, USA): 'Robert Hooke (1635-1703) and Natural History'. (July 2018).

1.6.2. Dr Georgiana Hedesan (University of Oxford, UK): 'Johann Friedrich Cohausen (1665-1750) and the question of eighteenth-century Helmontianism'. (July 2018).

1.7. Links with other Institutions and Societies

1.7.1. On behalf of the Trustees, the Librarian submitted an eligibility application to join the Museum Standards Programme of Ireland. Results should be known in December 2018.

1.7.2. The Librarian was elected as the Secretary of the History of Science, Medicine and Technology Ireland Network.

1.7.3. The Librarian has been proposed as the Library Association of Ireland representative on the National Committee of the Blue Shield.

1.8. Continuing Engagements

Our previous links are still flourishing:

1.8.1. H. E. Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland, is Patron of the Worth Library Trust. On 1 July 2018 Dr Eoghan Mooney (Trustee) and Dr Elizabethanne Boran

(Librarian) represented the Worth Library at the 'Patron's Concert' in Áras an Uachtaráin.

1.8.2. The joint lecture on 'Medieval and Renaissance Medical History', set up by the Worth Library and the Department of History in TCD, took place in April 2018 (see Seminar List).

1.8.3. As Leader of Work Group 4 'Documents and Collections' of the COST Action IS1310: Reassembling the Republic of Letters: A digital framework for multi-lateral collaboration on Europe's intellectual history:

http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/isch/Actions/IS1310. The Librarian attended the Steering Group meeting and final conference in Malta in late January 2018.

1.8.4. The Librarian is a committee member of the History of Science, Technology and Medicine Ireland Network and they hold their committee meetings in the Worth Library.

1.8.5. The Edward Worth Library had its sixth intern from the EUSA scheme: Ms Michelle White (Wake Forest University, North Carolina, USA) worked in the Library for six weeks. During her time here she prepared two books of the month, a small exhibition on early modern farriery and horses and also helped with secretarial work.

1.8.6. The Librarian continues to be an active member of the Rare Books Group of Ireland.

1.8.7. The Edward Worth Library is one of a group of libraries (including the CONUL libraries) who joined together in 2013 to become members of CERL: Consortium of European Libraries: <http://www.cerl.org/>.

1.8.8. The Worth Library is part of the 'Manuscript, Book and Print Cultures' Research Theme (TCD).

1.8.9. The Edward Worth Library is one of five Dublin libraries involved in the 'Reading East' website, hosted by University College Dublin: <http://www.ucd.ie/readingeast/>.

1.8.10. The Edward Worth Library is a partner library with the Universal Short Title Catalogue, which is hosted by the University of St Andrews', Scotland: http://www.ustc.ac.uk/?page_id=36#worth

1.8.11. The Infectious Diseases Society of Ireland has a link to the Worth Library 2011 online exhibition: <http://www.idsociety.ie/links/>

1.8.12. Podcasts of presentations at 'The Book: History and Practice' workshop, held at The Humanities Institute of Ireland on 12 March 2012, continue to be available online on YouTube.

1.8.13. A podcast of the paper the Librarian gave on the 'Scientific Collections of the Worth Library' in November 2012 is available on the website of the Royal Irish Academy.

1.9. Open Days

Nine Open Days at the Worth Library were held to facilitate members of the public in viewing the various exhibitions and the Library itself: The increase in Open Days and afternoons was greatly facilitated by the appointment of a Library Assistant.

- 18 May 2018: Open afternoon for the exhibition 'John Strype at the Edward Worth Library'.
- 21 June 2018: Open Day for the exhibition 'Reading Euclid at the Edward Worth Library'.
- 9 August 2018: Open Day for the exhibition 'Farriery and Horses at the Edward Worth Library'.
- 21 September: Open evening for the exhibition 'Mythical Creatures at the Edward Worth Library'. This was part of Culture Night 2018.
- 25 September 2018: Timed tours for Dublin Festival of History.
- 27 September 2018: Timed tours for Dublin Festival of History.
- 2 October 2018: Timed tours for Dublin Festival of History
- 4 October 2018: Timed tours for Dublin Festival of History
- 13 October 2018: Timed tours for Open House.

The Librarian also gave a large number of tours of the Library throughout the year.

1.10. Select Statistics

The increased number of Open Days increased our footfall numbers to 806 (as of 5 December 2018). It should, however, be noted that a number of joint events during the year were elsewhere and thus figures from these events were not included in our visitors' book.¹

¹ For example, 25 people attended the joint lecture in Medieval and Renaissance medicine which was held in Trinity College Dublin.

Online visitors

Throughout 2018 there were 22,731 individual visitors to the main site in 2018 alone, (90% were new visitors this year and there have been 92,178 users since June 2010).

The connected annual online exhibitions have figures as follows:

- 'Astronomy at the Worth Library' has, since it was launched in November 2009, been visited by 36,410 individual visitors since, with 1,595 individual users in 2018.
- The 'Infectious Diseases at the Worth Library' web exhibition has been visited by 43,515 individual visitors since it was launched in December 2010, with 4,178 in 2018 alone.
- The 'Alchemy and Chemistry at the Worth Library' exhibition, launched in 2011 and was accessed 44,701 since then, 1,253 times in 2018.
- The Newton exhibition, launched in 2012 to mark Dublin City of Science was accessed 43,272 times since then, 494 in 2018 alone.
- The Botany website, launched on 27 September 2013 has been accessed by 78,224 visitors since then, with 22,261 in 2018 alone.
- The Dr Steevens' Hospital: A History' website, was launched on 27 May 2014, and has been accessed by 38,424 individual visitors since, with 1,847 in 2018 alone.
- The 'Aldines at the Worth Library' website, was launched on 6 February 2015, and has been accessed 35,316 since it was launched, with 895 this year alone.
- The 'Architecture at the Worth Library' was launched on 15 October 2016, and has been accessed 2,101 times since, 1,476 in 2018 alone.
- 'Mathematics at the Worth Library' was launched on 10 November 2016, has been accessed 1,093 times since then, 413 in 2018 alone.
- 'Van Dyck at the Worth Library' was launched on 6 December 2017 and was accessed 499 times since then, with 422 this year alone.

- 'Mythical Creatures at the Worth Library' was launched on 21 September 2018 and was accessed 114 times in 2018.

On average c. 85% of each of these were new visitors to the websites, which suggests that our web visibility is growing exponentially. This suggests that the strategy of leaving web exhibitions online and linking them to each other is very beneficial for increasing the web visibility of the Worth Library. Most of the 22,731 individual visitors to the main site this year were based in United States, Ireland and the United Kingdom (28%, 20%, and 10% respectively). Following these was India (5%); and then the Philippines (4%) and Canada, France, and Australia at over 2%.

Via the extensive online presence (www.edwardworthlibrary.ie and our ancillary website exhibitions) we seek to share knowledge of the collection with scholars, institutions and the general public. All lectures, conferences and tours are open to members of the public.

Outside of Open Days, tours may be booked by either e-mailing info@edwardworthlibrary.ie or by phoning 01 635 2215.

1.11. Print and Online Media

In June 2018 the Worth Library twitter account was launched:

@EdwardWorthLib

In August the Librarian prepared a short note on the farriery and horses exhibition for the journal *Veterinary Ireland*.

1.12. Publications

1.12.1. Elizabethanne Boran (ed.), *Book Collecting in Ireland and Britain: 1650-1850* (Dublin, 2018). This collection of papers was published by Four Courts Press in November 2018. It was the proceedings of a conference, held in the Chester

Beatty Library in November 2016, which was a joint event of the Rare Books Group of Ireland, the Edward Worth Library, and the British Book History Research Network. It includes an introduction and a paper by Elizabethanne Boran: 'Dr Edward Worth: A Connoisseur Book Collector in Early Eighteenth Century Dublin'. For more details see:

<http://www.fourcourtspress.ie/books/2018/book-collecting-in-ireland-andbritain/>

1.12.2. Elizabethanne Boran, 'Buying and selling medical books in early modern Ireland' was published by the journal *Eighteenth Century Ireland*, 32 (2017) 105-135.

1.12.3. Elizabethanne Boran, 'Persecution and deliverance in Sixteenth-century Kilkenny, The Vocacyon of John Bale, 1553' was published by the journal *Old Kilkenny Review* (2017) 71-92.

2. Financial Summary

Funding

The Worth Library received funding of €165,000 from the Health Service Executive in line with the costings submitted to the HSE as part of the 2017-2019 three-year plan.

Staff and administration

The Worth Librarian and the Library Assistant are appointed as members of staff in Trinity College Dublin and paid monthly by the College via funds provided by the Trustees. The Trust Secretary and Financial Advisor also received stipends from the Trustees.

The revenue charity status of the Trust exempts it from tax obligations.

**Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Financial
position as of 31st December 2018**

Administrative Expenses	
Income	€165,141
Surplus/(deficit) on ordinary activities before interest	<u>€3,690</u>
Interest receivable & similar income	€141
Surplus/(deficit) on ordinary activities before taxation	<u>€3,549</u>
Tax on surplus	-
Surplus for the year	€3,549
Non Current assets	
Property, plant & equip	€36,345
Current Assets	
Debtors	€7,747
Cash and cash equivalents	€106,061
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(15,024)
Net Current assets	<u>€98,784</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>€135,129</u>
Represented by Unrestricted Funds-general fund surplus	€135,129
Total Funds	<u>€135,129</u>

3. Structure, Governance and Management

Pursuant to a High Court judgment by Mr Justice Ronan Keane in 1995, the Worth Library Trust was established under a Scheme for its Administration and Regulation by Order of the High Court of 5th July 1995.

The Trust is regulated by the Charities Regulation Authority. CRA number 20066093, Charity number CHY 17643.

3.1. Trustees of the Edward Worth Library in 2018

Dr Emer Lawlor (Chair and Trustee)

Mr Tony O'Brien, Director General HSE (ex officio)

Prof Patrick Prendergast, Provost, TCD (ex officio)

Dr Sandra Collins, Director, National Library of Ireland (ex officio)

Mr Tony Kelly (Nominee for Director General HSE)

Mr Gerard Long (Nominee for the Director of the National Library of Ireland)

Ms Laura Shanahan (Nominee for the Provost of Trinity College)

Ms Maureen Browne

Professor Davis Coakley

Mr David Fitzpatrick

Mr Kieran Hickey

Professor Greta Jones

Dr Eoghan Mooney

Ms Helen Stokes

Mr Robert Towers

Secretary to the Trustees

Ms Ceara Cowap

Financial Advior

Mr Damian Casey

Worth Library Staff

Worth Librarian

Dr Elizabethanne Boran

Worth Library Assistant

Mr Antoine Mac Gaoithín

3.2. Meetings of the Worth Library Trust in 2018

6th February Governance sub-committee meeting

9th March Finance sub-committee meeting

9th March Trustees' meeting

26th April Governance sub-committee meeting

25th May Finance sub-committee meeting:

25th May Trustees' Meeting

26th June Governance sub-committee meeting

6th September Governance sub-committee meeting

14th September Finance sub-committee meeting

14th September Trustees' Meeting

14th December Finance sub-committee meeting

14th December Trustees' Meeting

Appendices

Annex A 'Gardens and Gardening in Early Modern Ireland' conference programme.

Session 1: Collecting Gardens in Early Modern Ireland and the Dutch Republic

Dr Elizabethanne Boran (Librarian of the Edward Worth Library, Dublin):

'Botany and Gardens at the Edward Worth Library, Dublin'.

Ms Regina Whelan Richardson (Curator of the Fagel Collection, Trinity

College, Dublin): 'Pleasure gardens and gardening for pleasure in the Fagel

Collection at the Library of Trinity College Dublin'.

Session 2: Demesne landscapes in Early Modern Ireland

Dr Finola Reid (Historic Gardens Consultant): 'Absence of Evidence – surely not!

Researches, glimpses and observations from my site work in demesne landscapes'.

Dr Vandra Costello (Independent Scholar), 'Gothick landscapes in Georgian Ireland'.

12.30pm-2.00pm: Lunch.

Session 3: Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth-Century Gardens in Dublin. Dr

Terence Reeves-Smyth (Northern Ireland Heritage Gardens Trust): 'The Dublin Nursery and Seed Trade from the 18th century'.

Ms Madeline Hutchins (Researcher and Event Organiser for the Ellen Hutchins

Festival): 'How did her garden grow? Ellen Hutchins (1785-1815), botanist, West Cork'.

Tours of the Edward Worth Library were held on the day.

Annex B 'The Robert Boyle Winter School'. 7 December 2018.

10.00am-10.45am: Professor Michael Hunter (Professor emeritus, Birkbeck College, London): 'The Life and Work of Robert Boyle'.

11.15-12.00: Professor Anna Marie Roos (University of Lincoln): 'Robert Boyle and Pre-Newtonian ideas about Colour.'

12.00-12.45pm: 'Boyle's Experiment's Touching Cold.

2.00pm Professor Luke Gibbons (Professor of Irish Literary and Cultural Studies Maynooth University): 'Robert Boyle's influence on Irish philosophers.

3 pm Panel discussion

This event was a joint initiative of the Robert Boyle Summer School and the Edward Worth Library, Dublin.