

Eoin McKiernan Library
Celtic Junction Arts Center
836 Prior Avenue North
St Paul, MN 55104

Collection Development Policy (Version 1.2, 12/6/2017)

I. Purpose of the Collection.

The mission of the Eoin McKiernan Library is to preserve, guide access to, provide reference service for, select additional relevant materials for inclusion in, and promote the use of the personal library collection assembled by Dr. Eoin McKiernan (1915-2004) and donated to the Celtic Junction Arts Center by the McKiernan Family in 2016.¹ The Library also is intended, in part, to reflect the subject interests of the Irish-American community of Minnesota with a special focus on the subject interests of the *Celtic Junction Arts Center community*. It is hoped that eventually the librarian will be able to collect in these subject areas and those reflective of Eoin McKiernan's particular interests, without attempting to duplicate the efforts of research collections already established in the Twin Cities.

II. The McKiernan Library generally will be constituted as a reference library, with its materials to be used on site, with the exception of a lending-library component which will be developed over time by the librarian.

III. Initial Subject Strengths. The initial McKiernan Library donation was a miscellaneous "Irish-Studies" collection, partially assembled by McKiernan personally and partially consisting of books sent to McKiernan as "desk" or "review" copies in his role as director of the Irish-American Cultural Institute, as founder of book store and publishing house Irish Books and Media and as the founding editor of the scholarly journal Éire-Ireland, which McKiernan established in 1966. McKiernan's particular interests were Irish history, politics, and religion (emphasizing topics related to Irish political unity), the Irish language, Irish folklore, and the arts in Ireland.

IV. The Irish-American community of Minnesota. About 12% of Minnesotans claim Irish ancestry and identify themselves as Irish-American. The Irish have been part of the ethnic mix in this area since before statehood. Communities across Minnesota recognize and celebrate a connection to Ireland and today more than 100,000 people attend annual Saint Patrick's Day festivities and the Irish Fair in Saint Paul.

V. The Celtic Junction Arts Center (CJAC) community. The Celtic Junction Arts Center Community includes all involved with the programs of CJAC itself (McKiernan Library, concert series, educational programming) as well as those involved with the programs of tenant organizations Irish Fair of Minnesota, O'Shea Irish Dance and the Center for Irish Music. These will be considered primary collecting subject areas for the Library in the

¹ The original McKiernan-Family donation consisted of approximately 3,000 volumes.

future. Community interests include Irish traditional music, Irish dance, theater, literature, poetry, visual art, Irish language, Irish history and genealogy. The library collects in these subject areas.

- VI. Potential Areas of Growth. The library director is currently exploring ways of collecting one-of-a-kind archival materials documenting the Irish arts community of the Twin Cities. Two current pilot projects (oral histories of the local Irish music scene and an archive of Traditional Singers Club concerts) are underway. Other potential subject areas for growth include: general Irish-Studies reference works, works by or about Eoin McKiernan and works on Irish sports played in Minnesota.

Other subject areas, will be reviewed by the library director, on a case-by-case basis, as proposed.

- VII. Lending Library. Duplicates of materials represented in the McKiernan Collection, and selected other quality works received by donation, will be considered by the library director for inclusion in a supplemental circulating collection, which eventually will be available for the use of community members.

- VIII. Subject Areas That Will NOT Be Collected: Irish history and Irish literature-in-English (novels, poetry, drama), except by donation.²

- IX. Donations. The McKiernan Library will accept donations that are congruent with this Collection Development Policy.

- X. Security. The formal establishment of the McKiernan Library requires that the materials housed therein be properly secured. The library director will develop, for inclusion in this policy, guidelines in this regard, as soon as practicable.

² Significant local research collections in these subject areas are already housed by the University of Minnesota and University of St. Thomas libraries, which precludes the need for the McKiernan Library to collect in these fields.