

Croker Papers

P8

Contents

<u>Introduction</u>	1
<u>I Crokers of Ballyneguarde Limerick</u>	
(a) Account book (1807-1815)	3
<u>II Thomas Crofton Croker (1798-1858)</u>	
(a) Material Relating to Fairy Legends and Traditions	3
(b) Letters	4
(c) Printed Material	5

Crokers of Ballyneguard, County Limerick, and Thomas Crofton Croker.

The Croker Papers relate to the Croker family of Ballyneguard, County Limerick, and to Thomas Crofton Corker (1798-1858), the noted writer and folklorist. They were acquired by Limerick Archives at different times. The account book of John Croker (P1/) was purchased from Mrs. Muriel Brown, Derbyshire in 1982. The Deeds (D1300-1330) were donated by Mr. Kevin Hannan in 1988, and are described further on Limerick Archives deeds data base. The provenance of the Thomas Crofton Croker Papers is unknown.

The collection is divided into two sections. The first section consists of an account book of John Corker of Ballyneguard, County Limerick. The second section relates to Thomas Crofton Croker. John Croker of Ballynauguarde and Raleighstown was born 4 October 1784, one year after the marriage of his parents Edward Croker and Margaret Anne Hare (m 1783). He married Catherine Adeline Bagwell, the youngest daughter of Colonel John Bagwell, MP of Marlfield, county Tipperary. He later became a J.P, then High Sheriff in 1832 and died on 3 March 1858. He started his account book two months after his marriage. Examining the entries helps paint a vivid picture of his lifestyle, that of his family and of economic conditions in Ireland during the period. Researchers interested in the Croker family of Ballyneguarde should also consult the Limerick Archives Deeds Database, as deeds numbered D1300-1330 relate to the family. These deeds can be used to use to construct the Croker family tree, research local history and ownership of land in the Ballyneguarde area and also to research old boundaries and place names.

The second section relates to Thomas Crofton Croker, who was born in Cork in 1798. He was a descendent of the Elizabethan English settlers of Cork and the son of a British army officer. He left Ireland at the age of 28 and in 1850 retired from his position as a senior clerk of the first class of the Admiralty of London. Croker then set out to collect and publish the text of folktales. The material relating to Thomas Crofton Croker was contained in a folder titled 'Crokerania'. It is organised into two sections. The first section contains miscellaneous material relating to the publication of *Fairy Legends of the South of Ireland*, Croker's most well known work. The first series of *Fairy Legends of The South of Ireland* was published anonymously in 1825. The international nature of Croker's stories attracted the Brothers Grimm, whose translation of his work appeared within a year of the publication of the first edition in 1825. A French translation followed, and when in 1828 Croker's second series of Irish legends arrived, it came in company with a third volume containing Welsh legends and a lengthy essay by William Grimm analysing the Irish tales and setting them into a broad European context. The

P8/

next section consists of letters, which are arranged chronologically. Of particular interest is a letter received from T.C. Crofton from M. J Williams containing notes relating to Devonshire fairy tales (. The final section consists of printed material relating to literary and folklore matters.

Cork City Library holds six volumes of Thomas Crofton Croker's letters, which have been indexed.

P8/

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 4 | Undated | Scrap of paper with 5 lines of preface to new edition of ' <i>Collection of Irish Fairy Tales</i> '.

1 p |
| 5 | Undated | List of names and subscriptions received generally to the sum of £0.2.3, and note relating to preface of <i>Irish Fairy Tales</i> .

1 p |
| (b) Letters | | |
| 6 | Undated | Letter from Thomas Crofton Croker stating he will not be able to attend the Literary Fund Committee.

1 p |
| 7 | 28 January 1827 | Letter to Croker from M. J Williams enclosing handwritten manuscript with fairy stories relating to 'various and extraordinary superstitions of this valley [Devonshire]'. Stories include 'the story of money given by the fairies to Davis Shone's mother', 'story of the witch', 'a story of enchantment', and 'tales of spectres'

11 pp |
| 8 | 29 June 1830- []April 1832 | File of circular letters to Croker from Society of Antiquarians of London with notice of meetings.

3 items. |
| 9 | 26 February 1842 | Letter from Croker, to J.G Nicholas appealing for private charity to help the destitute family of the late Mr. Theodore Hook, and listing names of subscriptions already received.

1 p |

P8/

- 10 26 March 180[9] Letter from [IW] Croker to the Duchess of Wellington relating to her request to see the Northern Ships. Croker notes that 'no order is necessary for seeing the ships...I should be happy to assist to exhibit the wonders of them'.
2 pp
- 11 21 July 1849 Cheque signed by Richard Jones to pay Mr. Tuck the sum of £6-1-6.
1 p.
- 12 Undated File relating to Christmas play. File consists of two handwritten drafts of a Christmas play, with characters such as 'mince pie' and 'plumb pudding'. Author Unknown.
2 items
- 13 August 1857 Scrap of paper with list of expenditures made. Includes comments such as 'paid to Mr. AW' and 'chapelier'. In French and English.
1 p

(c) Printed Material

- 14 19 July 1823-2 August 1823 Various newspaper cuttings from *Literary Gazette* no.338, 339, 341, and 342. Cuttings consist of articles by 'Count du Bray' relating to popular prejudices and superstitions peculiar to the Esthonians, and to the peasants form Livonia.
4 items
- 15 Undated Printed poem titled 'Lines addressed to George Duke of Marlborough, on seeing him surrounded by Fiddlers near the statue of John Duke of Marlborough'. Author unknown.
1 p

P8/

- | | | | |
|----|--------------|---|---------|
| 16 | 1 Aug 1802 | Newspaper cutting of article titled 'prologue to the new comedy of 'Trials All', spoken by the lawyer and the authors. | 1 item. |
| | | | |
| 17 | 2 April 1800 | Printed poem titled 'A Poetic Address spoken by Mrs. Creswell [on] the night of her benefit. Includes one handwritten alteration in final stanza, line 6. | 1 p |
| | | | |
| 18 | Undated | Printed circular requesting subscribers for 'Western "Pebbles at Play" or 'Scatter Fugitive Notes from the Port Feuille of Devon Antiquary'. | 1 p |