

Mayors of Limerick City

Limerick City Council

L/FR/MY/

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Introduction

This collection relates to the Mayors of Limerick City. It includes photographs, correspondence, and material relating to Mayoral elections dating from 1842-1999. Prior to the City Management Act of 1934, the Mayor had held a more powerful figure than his modern counterpart, as he combined the ceremonial role of the present position, with the powers and authority of City Manager. He and the City Council administered the city themselves. Working under the direction of the Mayor and the Council was a management team of permanent officers, the most senior of which was the Town Clerk. However the powers of the mayor were hampered by his term of office being only a year, although several mayors served more than one term

The first part of the collection consists of photographs of Limerick Mayor's dating from 1842 to the early 1990's. It is arranged chronologically by mayor. In many cases, the item held by Limerick Archives is a photograph of a painting of the particular mayor or a copy of a photograph held elsewhere. Part (ii) of this section consists of group photographs taken of former mayors of Limerick, c. 1970.

The next section consists of correspondence from the Mayor's Office. It includes letters books dating from 1925-1932. The individuals who held the office of Mayor of Limerick during this period were Paul O' Brien (1925/6 and 1926/7), John George O' Brien (1927/8), Michael J. Keys (1928/9 and 1929/30), Patricia Donellan (1930/1, 1931/2, and 1932/3), Patrick F. Quinlan (1934/5). In 1935 the Limerick City Management Act was passed, and Quinlan's term of office was terminated. J. M Casey was elected Mayor for the remainder of the year.

The third section consists of an administrative file relating to the election of Limerick of Limerick City Mayors by members of Limerick City Council from 1926-1955. The fourth section consists of a volume recording the issuing and returning of the mayoral chain, 1969-1986.

For a comprehensive history of the Mayors of Limerick City, please consult Matthew Potter, *Mayors and Mayoralty 1197-2007*(Limerick, 2007).

1. **Photographs of Limerick City Mayor's (1842-1977)**

(i) Portraits (1942-1992)

[1-2]

1/3	c. 1842	File relating to Martin Honan, Mayor of Limerick 1842 and 1843.
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File contains five colour photographs of a semi-profile portrait with Mayoral chains. Also includes negatives.

7 items

[4-11]

1/12	c.1852	File relating to Thomas Kane, Mayor of Limerick 1852 and 1857. File
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consists of two colour photographs of a portrait of Kane, and negatives.

4 items

[13-25]

1/26	c.1862	File Relating to Sir Peter Tait. Mayor of Limerick for three consecutive
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years, 1866, 1867 and 1868. File contains four colour photographs of Tait in Mayoral robes and chains. Includes frame and inscription underneath portrait of 'In the Billiard Room of Clubhouse, a portrait of Sir Peter Tait'

8 items

[27-40]

1/41	c.1882	File contains detailed account of the life of Jerome Counihan, Mayor
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of Limerick for two years, 1882 –1883. The report was compiled by Mid-West Archives at an address of 102, Henry St, Limerick and is dated 26 February 1988. No Photograph included.

6 pp

1/42	c.1884	File contains one colour photograph of a portrait of seated figure believed to be Maurice Lenihan, Mayor of Limerick in 1884. Backdrop is of ornate library type
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setting. Includes negatives.

3 items

1/43

c.1885

File contains two colour photographs of portrait of Stephen O' Mara, Mayor of Limerick for two consecutive years, 1885-1886. Includes inscription of 'The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Limerick Alderman Stephen O' Mara.' Also includes copy of sketch of [Limerick] Harbour scene. On reverse of picture is biographical note on O' Mara. Also includes negatives.

5 items

1/44

c.1887

File contains four colour photographs of a portrait of Francis Arthur O' Keefe, who was Mayor of Limerick for three consecutive years 1887, 1888 and 1889. He is seated and with Mayoral robes and chains. Includes negatives

6 items

1/45

c.1887

File contains eight photographs of black and white portrait picture of Francis A. O' Keefe, Mayor of Limerick 1887,1888,1889. Figure is seated in ornately carved wooden chair dressed in Mayoral robes and chains. Includes negatives

13 items

1/46

c.1890

File contains ten photographs of black and white picture of William J. O' Donnell, Mayor of Limerick 1890. O'Donnell is seated and dressed in Mayoral robes and chains. Also includes negatives

14 items

47

c.1891

File contains 2 sepia photographs, copies of originals of Patrick Riordan, Mayor of Limerick 1891. Figure is seated, dressed in Mayoral robes and chains with backdrop of an office type setting. Also contains negatives.

3 items

[48]

1/49 c.1893 File contains two black and white photographs, copies of originals, of Brian O' Donnell, Mayor of Limerick 1893, 1984. O' Donnell is seated and is dressed in Mayoral robes and chains. File includes negatives.

3 items

[50-54]

1/55 c.1899 File contains two sepia photographs, copies of originals, of John Daly, Mayor of Limerick 1899, 1900 and 1901. Also in the photo are Thomas J. Clarke and Sean McDiarmuida, signatories of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic. Clarke is standing to the rear and seated in front are Daly and McDiarmuida. Also includes negatives.

4 items

[56-58]

1/59 c.1905 File contains six black and white photos, copies of originals of Michael Joyce, Mayor of Limerick 1905-1906. Portrait is from waist-up and Joyce is dressed in suit and Mayoral chains. Includes negatives.

8 items

1/60 c.1907 File contains 14 sepia photographs, copies of originals, of John Kerr, Mayor of Limerick in 1907. Kerr is seated, dressed in Mayoral chains and robes, holding scroll. Five of the photographs are close up, mid-chest height upwards. The remainder are full-length shots. Negatives included.

18 items

1/61 c.1908 File contains two photographs of black and white picture of Thomas Donnellan, Mayor of Limerick 1908-1909. Negatives included.

4 items

[62]

- | | | |
|-------|--------|--|
| 1/ 63 | c.1913 | File contains two sepia photographs of original photographs of Philip O' Donovan, Mayor of Limerick 1913-1915. Figure is seated at table with open book dressed in official robes and chains. File also includes hand written letter (undated) detailing personal connection to Mr. Donovan and details of his life. File also contains negatives. |
| | | 5 items |
| 1/64 | c.1916 | File contains four copy photographs of picture of Sir Stephen Quinn, Mayor of Limerick 1916-1917. Negatives included. |
| | | 6 items |
| 1/65 | c.1918 | File contains one photograph of original photograph of Alphonsus M. O' Mara, Mayor of Limerick 1918-1919. Figure in portrait shot is seated at table dressed in Mayoral robes and chains. Negatives included. |
| | | 3 items |
| 1/66 | c.1920 | File contains single black and white photograph of original photograph of Michael O' Callaghan, Mayor of Limerick 1920. Visible from mid-chest height upward. Negatives included. |
| | | 2 items |
| 1/67 | c.1921 | File contains four black and white photographs, copies of originals, of Seoirse (George) Clancy, Mayor of Limerick 1921. Negatives included. |
| | | 6 items |
| 1/68 | c.1934 | File contains five black and white photographs of J.M Casey, Mayor of Limerick. Elected for part of year 1934 through 1936. Note he was Acting |

Mayor of Limerick for short period in 1921 due to murder of Seoirse Clancy. Figure is seated at table dressed in chains and robes of office. Negatives included.

7 items

1/69

c.1923

File includes one photograph of original photograph of Stephen O'

Mara, Mayor of Limerick from [March] 1921 through until his retirement from office on 1 October 1923. Negatives included,

3 items

[70-73]

1/74

c.1928

File includes 7 photographs of Michael J. Keyes. Four of

which are in colour and show Keyes in his Mayoral robes and chains. Mayor of Limerick for two consecutive years 1928-1930. Three show a black and white photograph of Keyes along with brief biographical note. Negatives included.

10 items

1/75

c.1930

File contains five colour photographs, copies of originals of

Patrick Donnellan, Mayor of Limerick for three consecutive terms, 1930-1933. Figure is seated and dressed in Mayoral chains and robes. Negatives included.

8 items

1/76

c.1933

File contains eight colour photographs of Patrick F. Quinlan, Mayor

of Limerick 1933-1935. Also included are five photographs of the original photograph. Second figure, Judge McElligot also in the photograph. Also present are two hand written letters, dated 15th and 22nd of August 1994 regarding the sourcing of these photographs. Negatives Included.

20 items

1/77

c.1934

File contains three colour photographs of Dan Bourke, Mayor of

Limerick from 1936-1941. Figure is seated at table in official robes and chains.
Negatives included.

6 items

1/78

c.1941

File contains five
black and white photo-
graphs of Desmond

O'Malley, Mayor of Limerick 1941-1943. O'Malley is standing at table with open
book wearing robes and chains of Office. Negatives included.

7 items

[79]

1/80

c.1944

File contains four
black and white photo-
graphs, copies of

originals, of James Reidy, Mayor of Limerick 1944-1945. Negatives included.

6 items

1/81

c.1945

File contains four
black and white photo-
graphs of Mayoral parade

featuring Mayor of Limerick Michael Hartney 1945-1946 in the top section of the
photograph. Subject is marching with uniformed Gardai and other officials. Negatives
included.

6 items

1/82

c.1946

File contains four
black and white photo-
graphs of Limerick Mayor

Sean (John) Hickey, 1946-1947 in his official robes and chains. Caption beneath one
photograph cites *The Irish Press* as its source. Negatives included.

7 items

1/83

File contains six
black and white photo-
graphs, three portrait and

three landscape, of Patrick J. O'Connell receiving his chains of office for 1947-1948
from individuals unnamed in the photograph. No negatives included.

6 items

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|--------|--------|---|----------|
| 1/84 | c.1948 | File contains five black and white photographs of Michael O' Malley, Mayor of Limerick 1948-1949. He is pictured seated with in his Mayoral chains and robes. Negatives included. | 7 items |
| 1/85 | c.1949 | File contains nine black and white photographs, copies of originals, four landscapes and five portraits, of Gerard P. Dillon, Mayor of Limerick 1949-1950. Figure is seated, writing at his desk wearing his Mayoral chains. Negatives included | 8 items |
| [1/86] | | | |
| 1/87 | c.1950 | File contains two black and white photographs of Kevin Bradshaw, Mayor of limerick for two terms, 1950-1951 and 1952-1953. He is pictured here in Mayoral robes and chains and holding a scroll. Negatives included | 3 items |
| 1/88 | c.1953 | File contains five black and white photographs of John Carew, Mayor of Limerick for two terms, 1953-1954 and 1959-1960. Pictured in Mayoral chains and robes. Negatives included | 8 items |
| 1/89 | c.1954 | File contains nine colour photographs of painting of George E. Russell, Mayor of Limerick from 1954-1957, from 1967-1968 and 1976-1977. Negatives included | 11 items |
| 1/90 | c.1957 | File contains eight black and white photographs of Christopher | |

Keyes, Mayor of Limerick, 1957-1958, three with biographical note. Negatives included

12 items

1/91

c.1958

File contains two black and white photographs of Joseph P.

Liddy, Mayor of Limerick 1958-1959 and 1970-1971. Seven photographs with biographical note. He is pictured in his official chains and robes. Negatives included.

11 items

[1/92]

1/93

c.1961

File contains four black and white photographs, copied from a

newspaper, of Donagh O'Malley, Mayor of Limerick 1961-62. Note: He retired in same year with F. Glasgow taking his place for remainder of term. Negatives included.

6 items

1/94

c.1961

File contains four black and white photographs of Frank Glasgow,

Mayor of Limerick for part of the term 1961-1962. He is pictured seated in his Mayoral chains and robes. Negatives included.

6 items

1/95

c.1962

File contains four black and white photographs of Frances

Condell, Mayor of Limerick for the term 1962-1964. Negatives included.

6 items

[1/96-97]

1/98

c.1966

File contains ten colour photographs of Vincent Feaney, Mayor of

Limerick 1966-1967. He is pictured in his chains and robes of office.

13 items

1/99 c.1968 File contains five photos of colour portrait of Jack Bourke, Mayor of Limerick for two terms, 1968-1969 and 1986-1987. Portrait is held in ornate golden painted frame. Figure is seated and dressed in Mayoral chains and robes. Negatives included.

7 items

[1/100-103]

1/104 c.1973 File contains ten black and white photographs of Michael Lippy, Mayor of Limerick for term 1973-1974. Six of the photographs depict him with two other individuals as they welcome home the All-Ireland winning Limerick hurling team of 1973. Biographical note also included. Four show him speaking in public. Negatives included.

15 items

1/105 c.1974 File contains five colour photographs of Pat Kennedy, Mayor of Limerick for two terms, 1974-1975 and 1985-1986. Painting is held in ornate golden painted frame. Kennedy is standing dressed in mayoral chains and robes. Negatives included.

8 items

[1/106]

1/107 c.1977 File contains nine colour photographs of Frank Prendergast, Mayor of Limerick 1977-1978. Figure is seated at table and dressed in chains and robes of office. Negatives included

12 items

[1/108]

1/109 c.1980 File contains one black and white photograph of Clement Casey, Mayor of Limerick for 1980-1981. Brief biographical note beneath photograph. Negative included.

2 items

[1/110-113]

1/114	c.1987	File contains five colour photographs of portrait of Tim Leddin, Mayor of Limerick for term 1987-1988. Painting is held in golden painted frame. Character is standing and dressed in Mayoral robes and chains.
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8 items

1/115	c.1988	File contains six colour photographs of Paddy Madden, Mayor of Limerick for two terms, 1988-1989 and 1990-1991. File also contains three colour photographs of portrait of Madden. Painting is held in gold painted frame and figure is seated, dressed in Mayoral chains and robes.
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14 items

1/116	c.1993	File contains seven colour photographs of Jan O' Sullivan, Mayor of Limerick, 1993-1994. She is seated in office setting, pictured wearing her chains of office.
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7 items

1/117 Photograph of John
Cleary, Mayor of Limerick 1872, 1873 and 1874, he is seated wearing his chain off
office. Donated by Mr and Mrs P Howitt, Wiltshire, England.

1 item

1/118 File contains two photographs of Timothy Ryan, Mayor of Limerick in 1910, 1911 and 1912. In the first photograph Mayor Ryan, standing with a medal and a sword and dressed in an unknown uniform. The second photograph is of the Mayor standing with in his mayoral robe and with his chain of office. There is also a letter and a genealogical tree giving details of the Mayor and his family. Donated by L Patrick Ryan, Toronto, Canada.

4 items.

(ii) Group Photograph of Limerick City Mayors (c. 1970)

2/1	c.1970	File contains two black and white photographs of Mayoral Reunion party. George E. Russell is Mayor of Limerick in the photograph, making the photograph
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date between 1954 and 1977, the years of Russell's terms as mayor. In the photograph are believed to be, from far left, back row, Desmond O'Malley, Patrick O'Connell, John Carew, Michael Hartney []. Front row, from left to right, Patrick Quinlan, James Reidy and Gerard B. Dillon. Negatives included.

3 items

2/2

c.1970

File contains two
black and white
photographs of Mayoral

reunion party. George E. Russell is Mayor of Limerick in the photograph, making the photograph date between 1954 and 1977, the years of Russell's terms as mayor. In the photograph are believed to be, in the front row, to the left of Mayor Russell, Stephen O' Meara, [] and Kevin Bradshaw. In the back row, from the left of the picture, are John C. Hickey, [], [] and Michael B. O'Malley. Negative Included

3 items

2/3

c.1970

File contains one
black and white
photograph of Mayoral

reunion party. George E. Russell is Mayor of Limerick in the photograph, making the photograph date between 1954 and 1977, the years of Russell's terms as mayor. In the photograph are believed to be, in the front row, on the far right, is Kevin Bradshaw. Directly behind him is believed to be Michael B. O'Malley.

2 items

2/4

c.1970

File contains eleven
black and white
photographs of Mayoral

reunion party. George E. Russell is Mayor of Limerick in the photograph, making the photograph date between 1954 and 1977, the years of Russell's terms as mayor. All figures in photographs have already been listed in the above files.

19 items.

2/5

File of four copies of
photographs of the funeral of the 'murdered mayors of Limerick'. On the 9 March 1920, British forces assassinated the former mayor Michael O Callaghan and George Clancy. Their funerals in March 1920 brought the city to a standstill. The photographs show the murdered mayors coffins in Mount Saint Lawrence Cemetery. A horse driven cortège passing by Bank Place and the Granary. The remaining two are of crowds of mourners on George's Quay, paying their respects to the dead mayors.

4 items.

2. Correspondence (1925-1957)

(i) Letter Books (1925-1931)

Letter books from the Mayor's Office, consisting of incoming and outgoing correspondence. Letters are filed alphabetically by correspondent. Includes letters to American Consul introducing Limerick citizens who wish to apply for American visas, applications for mayors dues, various complaints received from Limerick citizens, letters relating to local and national politics, invitations to the mayor to attend public events, donations made to mayors charities, supplications to mayor for help in securing employment, and letters of recommendation written by the mayor. Includes letters such as 'I regret having to bother you to encroach on your valuable time. I think I have several grievances to bring to your worships notice...' (Thomas Rea, New York, 24 February 1928). Letters generally do not relate to town management issues.

4 volumes

1/1	July 1925 – June 1928	c. 270 pp
1/2	June 1928 – April 1929	c. 400 pp
1/3	April 1929 – December 1929 Includes 'Outline Specification Issued by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health for the Guidance of Local Authorities undertaking the Provision of Houses (Modified Standard) under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, 1890 to 1921' and specifications for the Corporation of Limerick Housing Scheme Ballinacurra Road, Haymarket etc.	c. 450 pp
1/4	January 1930 – April 1931	c. 450 pp

(ii) General Correspondence (1929-1957)

[1-5]

2/6 25 September 1929-2 July 1955 Mayor's Correspondence file consisting of letters from Limerick Citizen's, Limerick Companies, International Companies and Organisations, the City Manager, and City Treasurer. Topics include the Eucharistic Congress (1932); military services pension act for former mayor Daniel Bourke (1942); visit of Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster (1946); St. Patrick's Day greetings (1950); various individuals and groups visiting Limerick from other cities; appeals to Minister for Justice for leniency in criminal cases; mayors subscription to various charities. Includes also the Mayor's Christmas card List for 1952 and 1955.

c. 60 pp

[2/7-20]

2/21 30 June 1954-18 May 1957

Correspondence file of
G. E Russell, mayor of
Limerick consisting of letters

from Limerick and Clare citizens appealing for Mayor's assistance, representations made by Russell to various T.D's and public bodies, and replies from the mayor to Limerick citizens regarding outcome from case. Includes correspondence with Minister for Justice appealing for leniency in criminal cases; correspondence with Minister for Commerce and Industry regarding merchandise licences; correspondence with Minister for Social Welfare regarding cheap fuel scheme and National Health payments; correspondence with Minister for Posts and Telegraphs regarding applications for telephone service in various parts of Limerick area and appointment of sub postmaster at O'Brien's Bridge County Clare; correspondence with the Minister for Land regarding applications for land purchase and tenancy with the Land Commission; correspondence with Limerick County Council and Minister for Local Government regarding unemployment in Limerick.

Restricted Access
c. 70 pp

(iii) Correspondence relating to industry (1936-1941)

3/1 9 January 1936-16 June 1941

Correspondence file
relating mainly to role of
Mayor in promotion of

industry and resolution of industrial disputes in Limerick. Topics discussed include agreements reached at various Mayor Conferences to resolve disputes such as the Building Trade Dispute regarding the use of timber framed windows (1936) and Confectionary Trade Dispute Agreement (1937); the resolution of disputes regarding the installation of metal framed windows in the building of the new Silo, Dock road, and the Technical School building (1937) and Kidds Café (1941); efforts to prevent the threatened closure of John McBinery and Company Limited, drapery establishment and loss of 95 jobs (1937); establishment of Worsted Yarns industry in Limerick; Includes also letters regarding invitations to events and requests for personal references received by the mayor.

c. 60 pp.

3. Election of Limerick City Mayor (1926-1955)

1/1	21 June 1926-30 June 1955	File relating to the election of mayor and Mayor's duties. Includes polling sheets; meeting agendas for mayoral election; declarations of acceptance of Office mayor; resolutions fixing quarterly meeting; Locum Tenens appointments. c. 35 pp
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4. **Issuing of Mayoral Chain (1969-1986)**

1	28 April 1969-30 September 1989	Register recording the issuing and returning of the Mayoral Chain.
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Details recorded include date issued, received by (with signature), date returned, and received by (with signature). From 27 July 1984 the type of chain issued was also recorded such as 'big chain' or 'small chain'. At rear of volume the issuing and returning of Sherriffs Chain is recorded.