



Charlemont grant report

Recipient name:	Dr. Elisa Serra Porteiro
Discipline and subject area:	Humanities and Social Science
Amount and year awarded:	€664.00 in 2023
Title of project:	Documentary traces of the translations of Plácido R. Castro del Río: An archival inquiry.

Summary of findings:

In the frame of this research project, I carried out thorough survey of his personal archive, recently transferred in its totality to the Fundación Plácido Castro (Cambados, Spain), in collaboration with Dr. Laura Linares (University of Limerick).

We were also able to speak extensively with Susi Castro, daughter of Plácido Castro and President of the Fundación Plácido Castro, who guided us through the documentary funds and shared her invaluable lived experience.

We established that no unpublished translations remain, and all of the texts found in the archives have already been disseminated. Correspondence explicitly connected to translation activity and the collaboration with Antón Villar Ponte in the translations of W.B. Yeats's folk-dramas is not found in the funds of the archive either. Susi Castro hopefully explained that much of her father's correspondence and other documents were lost or left behind in successive family moves, notably to the UK and then again to Galicia.

Two unpublished letters between Plácido Castro and Francisco Fernández del Riego, prominent Galician author, activist and researcher, which are not included in the recently published repository of Del Riego's correspondence.

Additionally, we found documentation on Castro's involvement in the BBC Spanish-language broadcast during his time in London, a project that was essential to the exiles and migrants in the early years of the Francoist dictatorship. We established a clear link between Castro and British author Nina Epton, also a BBC collaborator whose travel writing was popular during the 1950s-60s.

On the basis of our findings, we will make an impactful contribution to the mapping of cross-national networks in Galician cultural and political activism during the 1950s-60s, as well as highlighting the relevance of external perspectives on the Galician context during the dictatorship period.



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Plans for continuing collaboration:

Dr. Linares and I continue to collaborate along two main lines of work:

- The dissemination of Plácido Castro's activism and cultural production.
- The recovery of the work of Nina Epton, uncovering links between this author and cultural activities in Galicia during the dictatorship period.

Publications associated with this project that you have been involved in:

- Peer-reviewed article for *Revista Galega de Filloxía* or *Estudios Irlandeses*.
- Research Seminars to present preliminary findings in University College Cork and University of Limerick.
- Book proposal for retranslation and commented edition of Nina Epton's travel book *Grapes and Granite* with Dr. Martín Veiga.

Dissemination and plans for future dissemination:

- Paper at the annual conference of the Association of Hispanists of Great Britain and Ireland (AHGBI) [March 2024].

We are collaborating with Dr. Martín Veiga, Galician Studies and Travel Writing specialist, in relation to Epton's works and towards a book proposal.

Outreach and engagement activities:

We are currently preparing a dissemination article on Plácido Castro and his links with Ireland for RTÉ Brainstorm.