

W.T. Cosgrave Papers

Court-martialled on 4 May 1916 for his part in the Easter Rising, W.T. Cosgrave was sentenced to death by firing squad. Reprieved by the presiding officer, Brigadier General C.J. Blackader, Cosgrave's sentence was commuted to penal servitude for life. William T. Cosgrave, 1890-1965, went on to become President of the Executive Council of the Free State, guiding the new state forward and laying the foundations for economic development.



Photograph of Sinn Féin members ahead of the 1917 by-election in Kilkenny. Standing, left to right: Dan McCarthy; Darrell Figgis; Rev. Dr Browne, Maynooth; Alderman Tom Kelly; Austin Stack; Eamon de Valera; Seán Milroy. Seated, left to right: Laurence Ginnell; Countess Markievicz; Cosgrave; Alice Ginnell.

We are very pleased to announce the generous donation by former Taoiseach, Mr Liam Cosgrave, of his late father's papers. These personal papers and a collection of photographs were used by Dr Michael Laffan during his research for his biography and assessment of Cosgrave's contribution to Irish political life and the building of the new state – *Judging W.T. Cosgrave ...* (Dublin, RIA, 2014),

<http://www.ria.ie/Publications/Books/History/Judging-W-T--Cosgrave>.

The Academy is delighted to acknowledge the generosity of Mr Cosgrave and his family. By arrangement with UCD School of Archives, the papers will be arranged, catalogued and digitised and will then be accessible via the web. The papers may also be accessed at the Academy Library post cataloguing, etc. We shall advertise their availability in due course.

The formal handover of the papers took place on 3 December, 2014.