



Charlemont Grant Report

Recipient Name:	Dr Jonathan Creasy
Discipline:	Humanities and Social Sciences
Amount and year awarded:	€1,200 in 2019
Title of Project:	Come Back to the Voice: Mary Manning Howe & The Poets' Theatre



Summary of findings:	<p>This research visit primarily included archival work in the Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscripts Library at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut (USA). The visit focused on the Susan Howe Papers, the most comprehensive collection on Howe and her extended family in the world. Howe's mother was the Dublin-born actor, playwright, director, novelist and filmmaker Mary Manning, who moved to the United States in the 1930s and married law scholar and civil rights activist Mark de Wolfe Howe. Manning is the subject of my postdoctoral research project in University College Dublin, funded by the Irish Research Council, under the mentorship of Dr. Nerys Williams.</p> <p>In the Howe Papers at Yale, I discovered a number of documents that are essential to my research on Manning, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An unpublished personal memoir written by Manning, titled "Molly" • Hundreds of pieces of correspondence from Manning and her family • Hundreds of pages of unpublished oral histories on Manning and The Poets' Theatre, the important group she founded in Cambridge, Mass., which is a major focus of my project • Family photographs that give image and colour to the project • Documents related to Susan Howe's career as a poet and scholar <p>These documents, along with other materials, form the basis of my monograph in process, <i>Come Back to the Voice: Mary Manning Howe & The Poets' Theatre</i>, which has now been proposed to Harvard University Press.</p> <p>In addition to archival research, my visit also gave me the opportunity to interview Susan Howe and her daughter, the major American artists, R.H. Quaytman. These first-hand accounts are essential for my work, and the Charlemont Grant gave me the opportunity to meet with Howe and conduct these interviews.</p>
Plans for continuing collaboration:	<p>I will continue working with Susan Howe and R.H. Quaytman, as well as the staff at Yale, on projects related to Mary Manning Howe and her family. My relationship with Harvard University, largely based on this research, will also remain active.</p>
Publication plans:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The monograph, <i>Come Back to the Voice: Mary Manning Howe & The Poets' Theatre</i> • An upcoming lecture I am delivering in Harvard University at the invitation of the Woodberry Poetry Room titled, <i>Poetry, Performance and Internal Politics: On Black Mountain and the Poets' Theatre</i>. (Another of Manning's daughters, the poet and novelist Fanny Howe, will be introducing my talk on that occasion.) • An article for peer-review titled, "Irish Voices in The Poets' Theatre"



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A second article for peer-review titled, “why huntress / why pattern: Performance and ritual in the work of Susan Howe”• A radio documentary on Mary Manning produced for RadioMoLI in Dublin
International dissemination:	An upcoming lecture I am delivering in Harvard University at the invitation of the Woodberry Poetry Room titled, Poetry, Performance and Internal Politics: On Black Mountain and the Poets’ Theatre. (Another of Manning’s daughters, the poet and novelist Fanny Howe, will be introducing my talk on that occasion.)
National dissemination:	A conference presentation on "Oral Histories of The Poets' Theatre" at the 2019 Conference of the International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures in Trinity College Dublin
Additional collaborations:	My work on Mary Manning and her family is at the centre of an emerging relationship I have with Glucksman Ireland House at New York University, particularly through Prof. John Waters. This collaboration is intended to lead to invited talks and research projects on Irish cultural migrations. I hope to build a strong relationship between NYU's Irish Studies programme and my current institution, University College Dublin.
Outreach:	<p>I am creating an audio documentary based on my research into Mary Manning for RadioMoLI in Dublin.</p> <p>I have also broadcast material related to my Yale research on my weekly radio programme, The Writers' Room on 103.2 Dublin City FM.</p>