

FROM **CROMWELL** TO **CHOLERA**
 A HISTORY OF IRELAND FROM THE PAMPHLET COLLECTION OF CHARLES HALIDAY
 CHARLES HALIDAY

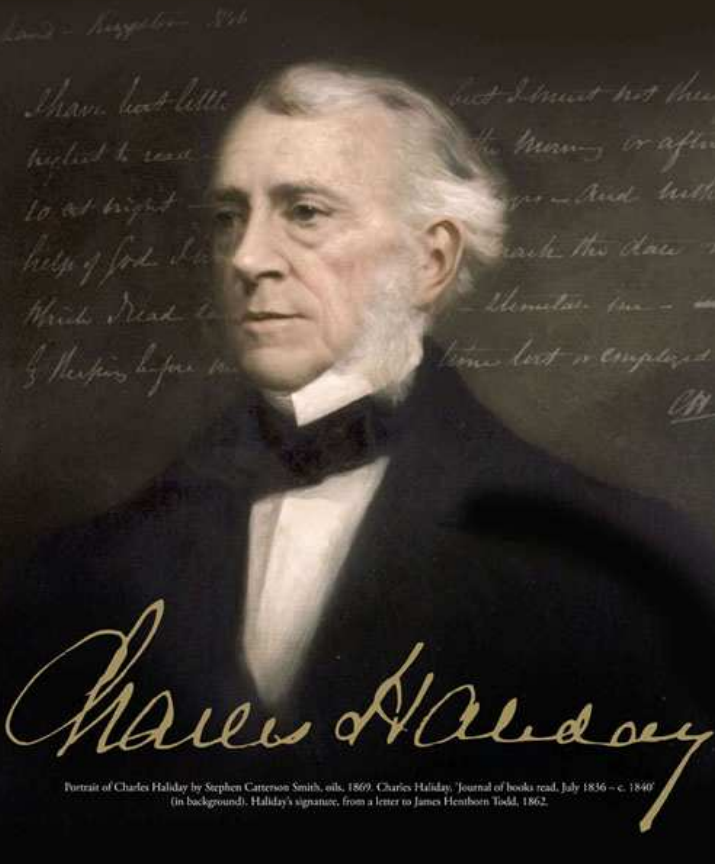
Charles Haliday (c. 1789–1866) was a Dublin merchant, banker, historian, public health reformer and prolific book collector. He trained as a bank clerk in London. After the death of his elder brother he returned to Dublin in 1813, living at Arran Quay. His brother's father-in-law invited him to take over his business as a timber and bark merchant, a profitable venture from which Haliday made his fortune. He figured prominently in the Dublin business arena, as secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, member of the Ballast Board, director and governor of the Bank of Ireland, Consul for Greece and a Justice of the Peace.

He campaigned for better living conditions for the poor, writing letters and pamphlets on social issues and business affairs. He also undertook historical research, and the Ballast Board commissioned him to write a history of Dublin Port. Elected to the Royal Irish Academy in 1847, he served on the Committee

of Antiquities. His *Scandinavian kingdom of Dublin* was published posthumously in 1882.

In 1843 he bought Monkstown Park which he rebuilt. His new villa had a large library and study to accommodate his collection. He noted in his journal: 'I have but little time to read, but I must not therefore neglect to read, before 8 o'clock in the morning or after 10 at night, I may read a few pages, and with the help of God I will do so. If I mark the date on which I read each book it may stimulate me by keeping before me a register of time lost or employed'.

Haliday died at Monkstown Park on 14 September 1866 of an illness contracted during his charitable and statistical visits to the slums of Kingstown (Dún Laoghaire). He is buried in Carrickbrennan cemetery, Monkstown, Co. Dublin. His entire library was donated to the Royal Irish Academy in 1867, by his wife, Marianne, who died shortly after in 1868.



Portrait of Charles Haliday by Stephen Catterson Smith, oils, 1869. Charles Haliday, Journal of books read, July 1836 – c. 1840 (in background). Haliday's signature, from a letter to James Hennessy Todd, 1862.

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 THE COLLECTION

The pamphlet collections of Charles Haliday (c.1789-1866) are among the best known and most heavily used materials in the Royal Irish Academy Library. Haliday, a Dublin merchant, was an avid collector of books, pamphlets and manuscripts, particularly those of Irish interest. Auctioneers sent him their catalogues. The waste-paper sellers of Dublin would wait for him outside his offices, bringing him books, pamphlets, broadsides and other ephemera. At auctions he bid through an agent; if he attended in person he feared prices would increase. He organised his pamphlet collection chronologically, and used his library extensively for his own social campaigning and historical writing.

After his death on 14 September 1866 his widow presented his unique collection of pamphlets, books and manuscripts to the Academy Library. The Academy welcomed the 'handsome donation, which

will form so important an accession to the Library of the Academy and prove so beneficial in future times to the student of Irish history'.

The librarian of the day, John T. Gilbert, retained the collection intact as a separate collection. Gilbert initiated the cataloguing of the pamphlet collection in large manuscript ledgers, and his handwritten catalogue volumes remained in use until very recently. Today, the collection held by the Royal Irish Academy stands at over 35,000.

With generous funding from Atlantic Philanthropies, under the International Access to Academy Library Holdings (IAALH) project, retrospective cataloguing of the collection has now been completed, with a detailed record of each pamphlet now accessible worldwide on the Royal Irish Academy's online catalogue.

The pamphlets are invaluable for the study of the history (social, economic, political, cultural), literature and antiquities of Ireland.



Charles Haliday

Background: A letter from Richard Welch, on behalf of Mrs Haliday, regarding the donation of her late husband's library to the Royal Irish Academy. RIA Academy Minutes Vol. IV, 1867.

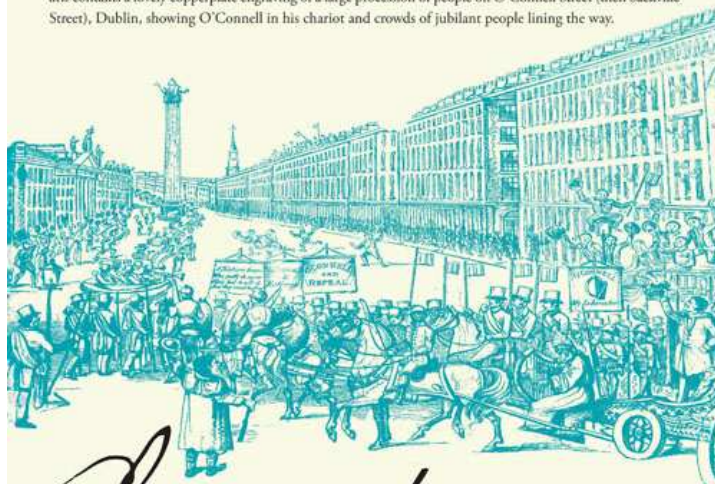
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 UNION & REPEAL

The Act of Union came into force on 1 January 1801, creating the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and abolishing the separate Irish parliament. Debates surrounding the Union prompted much political writing both in Ireland and England. A pro-Union pamphlet published in 1798 and attributed to Edward Cooke entitled *Arguments for and against an Union* set in motion a 'pamphlet war' which saw at least 30 pamphlets on the subject of a union published in that year alone. On each side of the debate the key players, newspaper writers, poets, pamphleteers, merchants and politicians busied themselves with quills and ink to supply the printing presses.



Pamphlets on the Union and on the campaign for its Repeal are well represented in the Haliday collection, amounting to well over 850 items. Although Haliday was pro-Union and anti-Repeal, the collection contains material from both viewpoints. Charles Haliday's own views on the Union were made known in various pamphlets and especially in a series of letters to newspapers in response to Daniel O'Connell's letters on Repeal. Haliday was meticulous in his replies to O'Connell's arguments, relying on factual information gained from his wide reading habits and extensive library.

In response to the Act of Union, the Repeal movement led by Daniel O'Connell (1775–1847) gained momentum and O'Connell organised 'monster meetings' to promote the cause. Haliday's pamphlet collection boasts over 180 items relating to Repeal, including works by Daniel O'Connell himself and the reports of the Loyal National Repeal Association. *The repeal; or The Irish manufacturer of 1832. A melo drama, in three acts* contains a lovely copperplate engraving of a large procession of people on O'Connell Street (then Sackville Street), Dublin, showing O'Connell in his chariot and crowds of jubilant people lining the way.



Charles Haliday

Portrait of Daniel O'Connell from: *Letters on the Repeal of the legislative Union between Great Britain and Ireland* by D. O'Connell (Dublin, c. 1830).
 Pro and anti Union pamphlets published in Dublin, 1798 and 1799.
The repeal; or The Irish manufacturer of 1832. A melo drama, in three acts (Dublin, 1835).

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 RELIGION

As a relatively cheap means of circulating views and ideas, pamphlets have long been used in religious debates and controversies. Charles Haliday's father was Protestant, his mother Roman Catholic; Haliday was brought up in the Church of Ireland but his pamphlet collecting was indiscriminate. Most religious material in the collection relates to the then established Churches of Ireland and England and the Catholic Church, but other denominations are represented, particularly Quakerism (Society of Friends), Unitarianism, Presbyterianism and Methodism. Bible societies, missions, charities and Sunday school societies also produced pamphlet literature.



consecrations and anniversaries of historic events.

Religion and politics are interwoven throughout Irish history. The issue of Catholic Emancipation dominated politics in the early nineteenth century. It was finally achieved through the Roman Catholic Relief Act, 1829, enabling Catholics to become members of parliament. Haliday collected 760 items relating to Catholic Emancipation published during 1800-30, including speeches, government reports, letters, satires, and poetry.

Sermons preached on behalf of religious institutions and charitable organisations were often printed and sold, with the proceeds going to the relevant bodies. Other published sermons include those delivered at funerals, feast and fast days, ecclesiastical visitations, church



Theologians wrote in great detail and with passion on various points of church doctrine. The collection includes over 100 pamphlets on the doctrine of transubstantiation, 101 on the Trinity, and 132 on baptism. Haliday had over 125 pamphlets on the religious debates of the Oxford Movement (1833-45).



Charles Haliday

A sermon occasioned by the King's visit to Ireland (Dublin, 1821). Emancipation: a poem in two cantos. Embellished with explanatory notes and caricature designs, for the instruction of His Holiness Pope Pius. To which is added the plain man's reply to the Catholic missionaries. Dedicated to Lord Chancellor Eldon, by the ghost of Martin Luther (London, 1823).