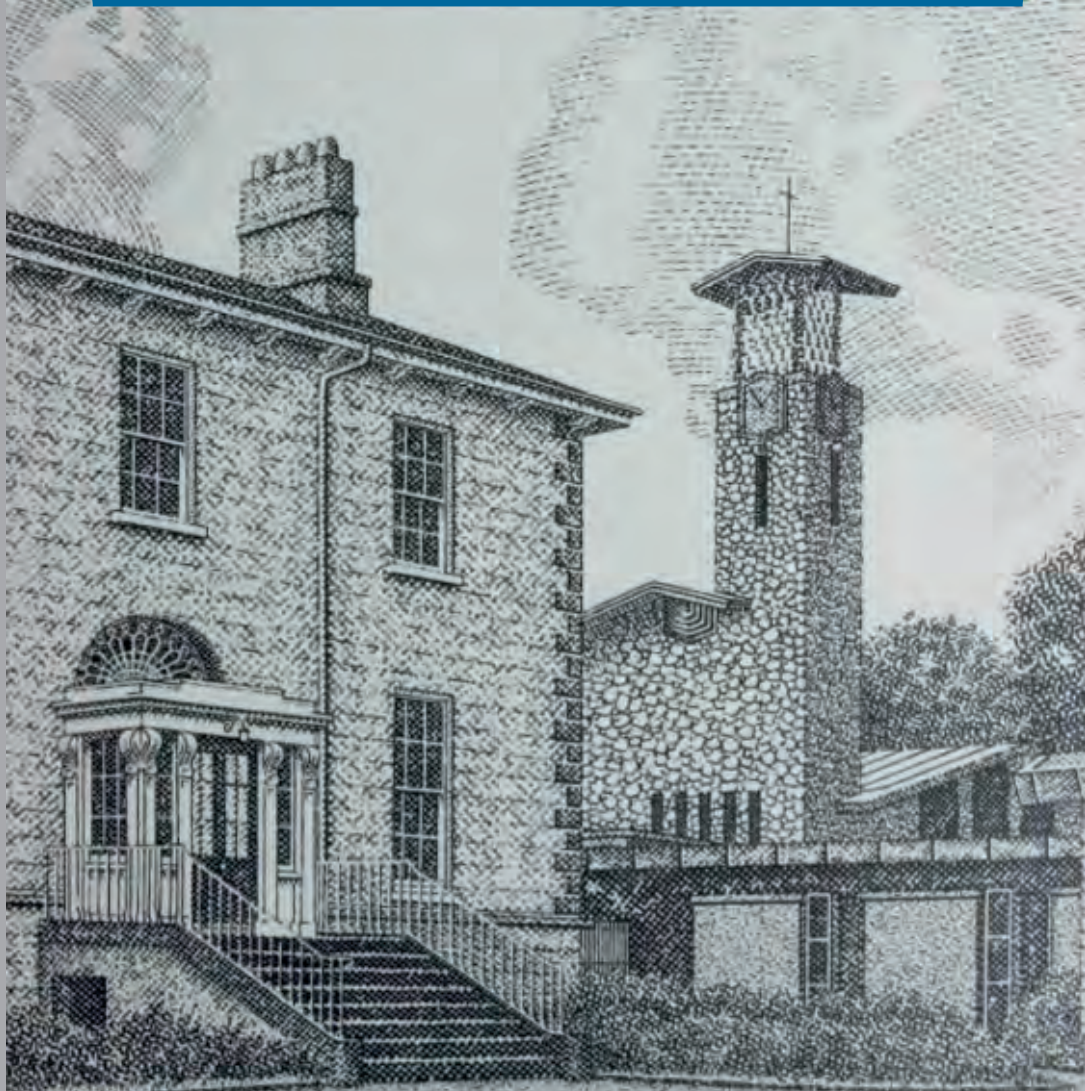


THE GONZAGA RECORD 1970's



The Gonzaga Record 1970-1979

A.M.D.G

Preface

Welcome to this collection of Archive items from the 1970s!

I hope it brings back memories of your time in the school and has some photographs of friends and contemporaries that you have lost or forgotten.

The Gonzaga Record 1970-1979 is part of an archival project to fill the gap that exists because no annual chronicle of Gonzaga was published before 1985.

As I see it, this is only the first draft of this volume. I need you to help complete it.

I need you to help complete the record of the lives of the many men who attended Gonzaga in your time; to put right the omissions you will immediately spot, and to correct the errors.

Please send me¹ your recollections and your photos, both of yourself and of others; and, in the spirit of the current section 'Seventies Alumni', let us know where life has led you.

Michael Bevan

¹ Mail to gonzagaarchive@gmail.com

Gonzaga in the 1970s

The opening pages of *The Gonzaga Record 1950-1959* pointed out that there is no better account of the development of Gonzaga than Fr Bill Lee's brief history, written in two parts for the *Records* of 1985 and 1986. Fr Lee's story is both engaging and very readable, and the early *Records* are now on line at www.gonzagaarchive.ie, so this volume will do no more than highlight some of the main points.

The `seventies were years of considerable soul-searching and debate about the future of the college. Questions were raised about intake, expansion, the school's experimental nature and its status somewhat outside the national system. Submissions were made to the Department of Education and a variety of options proposed, including the possibility of Gonzaga becoming a comprehensive, even a co-educational, establishment. When the Department rejected these suggestions the Society of Jesus, ever mindful of its educational mission, even contemplated the final closure of the school.

What prompted all this?

Fr Lee points to the pressure of changes in Irish society: a 'rising tide of affluence' among the middle class, increasing the demand for places in a school like Gonzaga; and a commensurate increase in the demand for places at third level, leading in its turn to the establishment of the points system of entry to

the universities² and the end of the system which allowed students to ‘accumulate’ leaving cert points over a number of years – a system that had suited Gonzaga very well. By 1977, the school has abandoned the practice of sitting the Leaving Certificate in Fifth Year and the special formation year that followed, when students could also repeat, or add, certain subjects, as well as study for Matric entry to colleges.

Once the decision to retain Gonzaga had been made, the necessary consequences fell into place: an expansion in numbers, doubling the Senior School in size; the change to a two-stream structure; and the inevitable building of a classroom extension. There followed, too, the demise of other experiments, including the special Sixth Year³

A number of men oversaw these years of change. Fr Paul Andrews SJ, Prefect of Studies from 1967-1971, will have been part of the thinking process in the early stages (the archive has no written record of his participation). Among his thoughts on his time in Gonzaga, he has mentioned the effect on the students of the turbulence of the ‘sixties.

² Fr Lee’s comments, in 1986, on the question of teacher assessment of students as part of an alternative to the points system and terminal exams would be music to the ears of teacher unions currently engaged (2015) in industrial action in opposition to teacher assessment in the context of the proposed new Junior Cycle.

³ See Fr Joe Veale’s prospectus, *The Gonzaga Record 1950-1959*



Fr Paul Andrews SJ (*seated between Fr Eddie Keane and Fr Bill White*), Prefect of Studies 1967-1971. This photo of the senior school is probably taken in 1969-1970

One can chart the changes referred to above in a valuable collection of letters to parents⁴ written by the two headmasters who immediately succeeded Fr Andrews.

These letters do not relate the full story, but they reflect a changing Gonzaga and the concerns of the time. Not least among these concerns was the financial one. From a base of twelve guineas a term in 1950, school fees for a single son had risen to £120 annually in 1973, rising to £220 in 1977/78, by which time the new classroom block was completed and in use, made possible by a highly successful fund-raising drive. By 1981/82 the annual fee was £432

⁴ The archive is grateful to Charley O'Brien (Class of 1982) for the gift of these and other documents



Fr Hubert Delaney SJ,
Headmaster 1971-1974

Fr Delaney's correspondence, as well as recording the gradual increase in fees, reflects continuing experimentation in curricular and extra-curricular activities (notably the attempt at inclusiveness when it came to students with learning difficulties) as well as a determination to maintain Greek as an option:-

SENIOR 1: In the matter of choosing between Greek and Geography, only those should take Geography, who seriously think that they should not take Greek, at least on a trial basis for one year. It should not be considered as a clear choice between Greek and Geography.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: P.E. will be fully integrated into the curriculum. For this purpose, every boy should be properly attired: white T-shirt, dark shorts, tennis shoes and socks. No casualness in dress will be tolerated here. Parental support in this matter last year was sadly lacking in many cases.

Letter to parents 1973

FURTHER EXPERIMENT: The College will continue its project which will research the problems of the slow-learner and the under-achiever. This project will be under the direction of Mr Michael Greene. Should you wish him to discuss any particular learning problems or study problems with your son, please write to the Headmaster so that we can take up the matter.

The College will also participate in a project in curriculum development initiated in the Education Department of Trinity College. This will take place in the Prep.4 class, and in the Humanities (English, History and Geography, for the moment), and in Science. It is hoped to see how best to progress towards an integrated curriculum at this level. To facilitate the work on the project, the class will be divided into two small groups, alphabetically.

ibid.

The project headed by Miceal Greene (who died in 2014) was in part financed externally, allowing the integration of some students with considerable learning difficulties. Sadly, it was a short-lived experiment.

One of Fr Delaney's preoccupations was with the boys' appearance – the early 'seventies being perhaps affected by the liberality of the 'sixties, or perhaps a liberal regime relating to dress-code. Certainly a photo of the Class of 1973 in Sixth Year is suggestive:-



Sixth Year 1973:- Fr Hubert Delaney and Mr Michael Bevan

A picture of the same class in Fifth Year, with Mr Ray Kearns, is rather more conventional:-



In a 1973 letter to parents, Fr Delaney reflects on the boys' 'cleanliness and neatness' and wonders whether 'some parents have even seen their sons before they leave for school'. Not long afterwards, the school began to enforce (or re-enforce?) a dress code; but for the moment parents were 'earnestly asked to ensure that boys pay attention to [such] matters', particularly 'in the matter of hairstyle'. It is no coincidence, of course, that the style of dress among the cohort of young lay staff who joined the school at this time was increasingly casual. A minority wore gowns (even among the Jesuits); the majority of men favoured beards and roll-neck sweaters.

By the mid-'seventies, a stricter discipline was in place:-

NORMS OF DRESS AND APPEARANCE

For normal school wear (including, unless otherwise instructed, those occasions when boys travel as a recognisable school group), the following norms apply:

- i. Boys in Prep.1 to Prep.4 classes inclusive should wear a shirt and College tie (Junior school), together with a grey or dark-coloured vee-necked pullover and grey trousers. If a jacket is worn, it should be the College blazer.
- ii. Boys in Senior 1 to Senior 4 classes inclusive should wear a shirt and College tie (Senior school) a grey or dark-coloured vee-necked pullover and/or the College blazer with grey or dark coloured trousers.
- iii. Boys in Senior 5 and Senior 6 classes should wear a shirt and the College tie, a grey or dark coloured vee-necked pullover, or (except on formal occasions), a suitable polo-necked sweater and/or the College blazer or a suitable jacket and grey or dark-coloured trousers.

On formal occasions (Masses for special occasions, school plays, outings, Confirmation, Sports' Day, etc.) all boys should wear the College blazer and grey trousers, together with a plain coloured shirt and the College tie. (If a pullover is worn, it should be grey or dark coloured and vee-necked) Boys in the 5th and 6th years may wear a suit in place of the College blazer and grey trousers.

For All Boys

Hair should be neat and tidy; it should not come below the collar of the shirt.

- ii. In no circumstances should boys come into the College in jeans or denims.
- iii. All boys should have the necessary clothes for P.E. and games. The recommended dress for P.E. is:
 - White singlet or T-shirt
 - White shorts and socks
 - Tennis shoes.

Boys in the Prep. school should have a swimming cap for use at swimming. For Rugby: The school jersey and socks and white shorts. (A second jersey, preferably red, is very useful for training, practice games, internal leagues, etc.)

- iv. PLEASE mark all clothes - including and especially P.E. and Sports' gear - with the owner's name. (if possible, indelibly)

NOTE: The College blazer and scarf are available from Arnotts in Henry Street, the school rugby jersey and socks will hopefully be available from the Sports department of Arnotts before September. The College tie (both Senior school and Junior school) is available from P.X. Kelly of Grafton Street.

The strictures regarding hair, denims and jeans are instructive.

The following year (1977) very practical rules are added regarding indoor and outdoor shoes.



Fr Delaney acclaimed by students after staff-student soccer, 1973-4

David Nolan ('78) offers the following identifications:

'In the photo with Father Delaney (*from left to right*) the boy at the extreme left in the distance is James Mullen. The boy over Father Delaney's right shoulder is Rory Godson; to his (Rory Godson's) right shoulder) is Jimmy McDonagh. In the distance behind McDonagh and Godson with his head turned towards the left wearing a pullover with a ringlet is Conor Hayes. To Father Delaney's left in the distance jumping up and waving his arms is Gerry Whelan. Peter Cassidy is slightly covered by the side of Father Delaney's head wearing a cream jersey. To Father Delaney's left arm is Barra de Bhaldraithe. The boy pushing him is Charles O'Reilly Hyland. Going back to the rear of the picture to the left of Gerry Whelan are two boys one of whom is David Carron (the smaller) and the second is Julian Plunkett-Dillon.'

Saturday school, it seems, was a part of every student's experience in the early years (the school's Timetable Return (Fifth Year) to the Department for 1963 lists a full morning programme of classes in mainstream curriculum subjects) By the '70s it has taken on an extra-curricular appearance:-

TELEPHONE: 972843

GONZAGA COLLEGE,
SANDFORD ROAD,
DUBLIN 6.
25th August 1973.

SATURDAY PROGRAMME

The Saturday Programme will commence on Saturday, Sept. 22nd 1973.
Class will commence at 9.30 a.m. and finish at 12.30 p.m.

Each boy will take THREE subjects.

ALL boys will take drama.

The remaining subjects are open to choice, as follows:

1. Senior 6, 5, 4:
(a) Art (d) Guitar
(b) Chemistry (e) Film Appreciation
(c) German* (f) Musical Appreciation
*(Note: Boys from Senior 4 who take German during the week may not take it here).
2. Senior 3, 2:
(a) Art
(b) German
(c) Guitar
(d) P.E.
3. Senior 1, Prep. 4:
(a) Art (b) Guitar (c) Recorder (d) P.E.
4. Prep 3, 2, 1:
(a) Recorder (b) Guitar (c) Choir (d) P.E.

Unless there are special requests there will be no Irish Class.

After a moratorium in 1975 it was decided that 'although the idea behind Saturday school is excellent, the actuality leaves much to be desired . . . in regard to continuity and development'. Drama, art and guitar lessons would now be offered after school on weekday afternoons, while German would be on offer on Saturday mornings, testing 'the devotion of those who wish to learn German'.

Expansion of the School

In 1971, with the changes in Irish education looming large, Fr Cecil McGarry SJ, Provincial, set up Interim Boards of Management in each of the Irish colleges to oversee their development. Gonzaga's Board had to address the considerations already outlined above.

Under Fr Delaney's management the doubling of numbers in the senior school went ahead, with the obvious implication that a building programme would have to be undertaken. The short term solution to the question of accommodating the extra classes was to house the Prep School in prefabs placed in front of what is now the administration building. Many schools resorted to the same solution, and teaching and learning conditions were far from comfortable or even healthy.

New buildings – the first since the boys' chapel

By the time Fr Delaney left Gonzaga to join the professorial staff of Milltown in 1974, the decisions about the future of the school had been made. His successor as headmaster, Fr Dermot Murray SJ, was faced at once with the prospect of a building programme. Collaborating with him in the work ahead were the Superior of the Gonzaga Community, Fr Cormac Gallagher SJ, who was also chairman of the Interim Board, and the recently appointed Bursar of the college, Fr Fergus O'Keefe SJ. Fr Bill Lee comments: 'These three men made a marvellous team. Even using words with care, I

would regard this team as the second Founders of
Gonzaga College.’



Fr Dermot Murray SJ, Headmaster 1974 – 1982

Fr Murray oversaw two building projects.

The first, the ‘block of eight’ additional classrooms, finally resolved the problem of space caused by the doubling of the size of the Senior School.

Fr Lee’s relates (*The Gonzaga Record 1986*) how the positioning of this new building caused considerable debate at the planning stage. It is a fascinating account, involving questions of lost perspective, access for emergency vehicles and the aesthetics of the building materials. It reveals much about Bill Lee’s own sensitivity to the school’s setting in its broad landscape, with the two original Bewley houses. His sense of loss was, by his own account, sufficiently overcome by the subtlety of architect Andrew Devane’s integration of the new and the old, and the execution by the builders, Cooney Jennings.



To the right of the familiar clock tower and entrance completed in 1957: the block of eight classrooms, completed in time for the autumn term, 1977

The second major project was the construction of proper facilities to accommodate the science subjects – an acknowledgement of the central place that the sciences have in a modern curriculum.⁵ Classes in these subjects had until now no proper facilities; some (chemistry in particular?) had been conducted, on a temporary basis, in the prefabs left after the Prep School moved back into St Joseph's House. Now Physics, Chemistry and Biology would have appropriately up-to-date facilities, each in a separate laboratory.

The new building, described as the Science and Specialist Block, also included a Geography room, Computer room and Audio-Visual room, and two additional classrooms for the Sixth Year classes.



The Science and Specialist block, completed in 1982.

⁵ The story of Gonzaga's slowness to fully embrace the science subjects is well known, as is Fr Lee's own enthusiastic teaching of Physics. Less well known, perhaps, is the fact that he was president of the national Science Teachers' Association in the 'sixties and in that position delivered a lecture on the centrality of the sciences in a modern curriculum.



Celebrating the completion of the Science and Specialist block: *from left*: Fr Dermot Murray SJ, Mr Roddy McCaffrey, architect, Fr Joe Dargan SJ, Provincial, Fr Noel Barber SJ (Headmaster) Mr Liam Connellan and Fr Cormac Gallagher, Rector of the Gonzaga community

A delightful picture of Fr Dermot Murray taken by the archivist in 2010 at a reunion of the Class of 1985.



New Structures - lay involvement

A significant feature of the development programmes of the `seventies and `eighties is the involvement of parents and lay staff in the consultative and management process – a consequence of Fr McGarry's decision in 1971. Interim Boards of Management⁶ also had a finance sub-committee. While the Board chairman Fr Cormac Gallagher applied the momentum, the Finance Committee (which had responsibility for overseeing the general financial management of the school) advised on the necessary fund-raising. The committee members who played an indispensable roll in the two phases of construction were:-

For the new classrooms – the 'Block of Eight':

Chairman	Mr Niall Crowley
	Mr Cathal O'Gara
	Mrs Eithne Blake
	Mrs Sheila Geoghegan
	Mr Joe McCullough
	Mr Donal O'Buachalla
	Fr Dermot Murray SJ

For the Science building Development Committee:

Development Director	Mr John O'Brien
Chairman	Mr Liam Connellan
	Mrs Margaret Carney
	Mrs Darinda Hickey
	Mr John Cooke
	Mr Joe McCullough
	Mr John Mulgrew

⁶ A Board of Governors took the place of the Interim Board in September 1981. Jesuits alone had made up the Interim Boards; now, for the first time, the laity were included.

Academic Change

Fr Murray's letters to parents reflect the effects on the school of contemporary developments in education nationally.

In his summer letter of June 1976, he reports on the measures the teaching staff feels are necessary in the 'present exam-oriented situation:

In the course of the past year, there has been much discussion, both within the various subject departments in the College, and among the whole staff, on the position of 5th and 6th year in the present exam-oriented situation. As you know, entry to the University is determined mainly by the number of points obtained by the prospective candidate in the Leaving Certificate and Matriculation examinations, and the competitive nature of this entry-scheme is liable to become more intense and to pose more problems to candidates in the next few years. It was felt that many of the problems which presently arise in these years have their roots in the early years of secondary school, and that these arise in large part from a lack of clear objectives at which the boys can aim. Obviously this situation has to be remedied if the boys are to reach an achievement level consonant with their ability, and thus face the Leaving Certificate and Matriculation examinations with confidence. We have decided therefore to introduce a major internal examination to take place at the end of the Senior 3 year. This examination will be based on the curriculum followed by the boys in the various subjects in the 2nd and 3rd years of the Senior School; it will be major in its consequences rather than in its actual organisation. This means that if, over the whole of the Senior examination, boys do not reach a pass level, they will not be allowed progress into the Leaving Certificate cycle, but will be asked to repeat the Senior 3 year, and may be advised to sit for the Intermediate Certificate Examination, or another external examination of equivalent level, at the end of this repeat year. In this way, boys who make the transition to Leaving Certificate cycle will have reached a standard which will enable them to aim for and achieve, in the two years that are normally allowed for the Leaving Certificate course, such results as will be adequate to permit entry to their chosen professional career. The sixth year then will not normally be seen as a necessary fall-back for those who wish to gain extra points, but as a year of advanced study and real transition from the world of school to the world of third-level education or to the many opportunities available in the professional and business world.

This major internal examination will thus become a real objective with real consequences for the boys in the Senior 3 year. It should not mean that they will be under tremendous exam-strain; since there are no external criteria involved, they will know that the examination will be based on what they have covered in school. But it should mean that their work and study will receive a new impetus in this very important year, and this should be of great benefit to them in the remaining years of secondary school. It will first be introduced in May 1977, and thus boys going into the Senior 3 year in September will sit for this examination at the end of the coming academic year.

A frequent and characteristic emphasis of Fr Murray's letters in these years of change is that concentration on exam results is not the main aim of Gonzaga's education, but this letter is clear in its determination that the school will assist the boys in

achieving the success necessary in the new environment.



The implications of change have further hardened into reality in his letter of November 1977. Again he strikes the note of caution that the vision of education must not be 'limited . . . to the transmission of examination skills':-

Recent decisions by the authorities of U.C.D. regarding the ending of the possibility of accumulating "points" for University entrance have caused us to reflect upon the structure of Gonzaga in terms of curriculum and of educational objectives. Already a decision has been taken to defer the normal sitting of the Leaving Certificate until the end of Senior 6, for boys who are presently in the 4th year of Senior School. It seems likely that this may also be the pattern for succeeding classes. Such a possibility cannot but cause concern as it may indicate that the sole objective of Gonzaga is the transmitting of such skills to the boys as to enable them to gain entry to the University. This would, quite obviously, be a one-sided and hopelessly inadequate view of education. Thus the staff, both lay and Jesuit, are giving much thought to the clarifying of educational aims and objectives and to the best way of achieving them. This is a long and difficult process, but one which is vital if we are not to be limited in our vision of education to the transmission of examination skills. Important though these be, the development of the complete person into a mature and adult Christian must remain the primary aim of the College. Your comments on these important issues would be very welcome.

Because of these changes at the top of the Senior School, certain decisions have to be taken about entry to the College. In the coming year - 1978 - there will be an entry of 20 boys at the Prop. 4 level as well as an entry of 30 boys into Prop. 1. Next year, however, (1979) there will only be an entry into Prop. 1; there will be no entry into the Prop. 4 classes. Instead there will be an entry of 20 boys into the Senior 1 classes in the following year - 1980. This entry at the Prop. 1 and Senior 1 levels will remain the pattern for the foreseeable future. Again may I remind you that the number

By the end of the school year 1979, his letter records the final demise of Gonzaga's Sixth Year experiment – a demise on which Fr Lee reflects at length in his account:-

This year has seen a considerable change in the College. Whereas in former years the fifth and sixth years sat for the Leaving Certificate and perhaps the Matriculation examinations, this year they have been joined by the fourth years who presented quite a wide range of O Level subjects, and by the third years who sat for three subjects in the Intermediate Certificate examination. The end of the school year, too, has seen the "passing away" of the traditional post-Leaving sixth year in the College. The pressures exerted by the various third-level institutions have forced us to make the sixth year much more exam oriented. In fact it will now become the year in which the boys present themselves for the complete Leaving Certificate examination, and this, of course, involves a wide range of changes throughout the school.

These changes remind us vividly of the increasing pressures placed upon the schools, particularly on those schools which have a high percentage of pupils aiming at University. At times these pressures can almost blind us so that we cannot see any objective to education other than the gaining of "points". It is important, therefore, to recall from time to time that the primary aim of Gonzaga is the transmission of the faith, and the awakening of that Christian awareness of the world which leads to a deep commitment to the righting of injustice and to the service of the whole community. This growth into Christian awareness is a slow and sometimes painful process. It may put before us difficult options – for example the call to the priesthood or the religious life; but in terms of life itself it is much more important than the struggle for points. Thus despite the rather considerable change of emphasis resulting from this pressure for points, the primary aim of the College remains unchanged.

It has been mentioned to me in the context of the changing sixth year that some boys intend neither to play games nor to participate in other extra-curricular activities next year in the hope of obtaining better results in the Leaving Certificate examination. In my experience such non-participation does not normally improve results; often indeed the boys who follow such a programme become morose, dissatisfied, and far from using well the time thus gained, waste it in doing nothing, or worse. A balanced participation in all school activities is highly desirable; to get lost in the "preparing for my Leaving" syndrome could mean that the boy becomes, quite simply, lost.

This photo, and that on the preceding page, are probably taken when Fr Murray was deputy headmaster of Belvedere College



That Gonzaga students did not surrender entirely to exam pressures is a source of obvious satisfaction to Fr Murray in his letter of November 1979:-

Last week a group of boys, chosen by lot from among the many 5th years who wished to take part, pushed a barrel from Dublin to Athlone in order to raise money for both our own Vincent de Paul work and for the starving people of Cambodia. They were accompanied by Mr Mulgrew, Mr Cusack and Fr Brennan in turn, and took six days to reach Athlone, sleeping in beds, on mattresses, or mostly on the floors in various institutions along the way. The consequent inconvenience to the smooth running of the school was accepted by all - staff and pupils - with great patience and with a spirit of positive good will. Along the route people were most kind to them; they collected nearly £1000 during their journey and together with the sponsorship received, the project will raise over £4000. Such a fine response to a generous effort on the part of the boys is a reminder that we all should continually call to mind those who are less privileged than we are, and be willing to endure some inconvenience to help them. I hope that this project will awaken among the boys a real desire to help those in the world who are suffering from poverty or injustice. In this way it would be a learning experience of great worth, and an example for others to follow.

Not, by any means, the first example of this kind of action by Gonzaga students involving them in the service of others; but it became a Fifth Year tradition for a number of years, backed by the fundraising activities of the remainder of the Year not chosen to participate in the main event.⁷



⁷ These 'charity pushes' were later replaced by the more structured Social Outreach programme initiated (and still maintained in 2014) by Mr David Keenahan

Sponsorship Money

COMPANIES

Juan's Hotels £100.00.
Deloitte, H, £300.00.
PROVINCE ST. £300.00.
A.I.S. £25.00
BANK OF IRELAND £150.00
McCullough Peggalls £35.00
SWITZERS £10.00
L' HABUE INVESTMENT £200.00
I. C. I. £80.00
Buckleys £250.00.

on The Push

£ 105 NAAS.
£ 200 TULLAMORE.
£ 78 ARLONE..

Philips, SUPERMARKETS,
F.X. KELLY, Neermans Travel,
AVIS, BAAMACASTROL,
KELCEFERON, HICKEYS,
MADAGANS, ST BRENDANS Hm.
Funness, Shell oil.

Total £1,000.

School Sponsorship

OTHERS ↓ TOTAL £200

£1,800.

Ian MacMahon (1981), who chaired the project, kept a folder of the documents related to it, including the publicity poster and details of sponsorship income (above). On loan to the archive, it also includes Ian's own diary of the days on the road, staff participants and the team itself (sadly, the press photographs and cuttings are in too poor a condition to be reproduced here):-

Philip Blaney, Cormac Buggy, Paschal Carney, Mark Connolly, Ciaran Cuffe, John-Paul Donnelly, Derry Gray, Sean Hayes, Tim McCarthy, Manus Moloney, Paul Grogan, David Bouwmeester, Dermot Byrne, Ian MacMahon, Jeremy Maher, John Munroe, Declan O'Carroll, John O'Grady, Paul O'Grady, Brendan O'Kelly, Brian O'Tuama, John-Paul Tansey, and Michael Walker

GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

DIVISION OF.....Dublin Metropolitan Area
Southern Division.

Chief Superintendent's Office,
Crumlin,
Dublin 12.

12th November, 1979.

STREET AND HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTIONS ACT, 1962 COLLECTION PERMIT

Authority is hereby granted to *..... Ian Mac Mahon, (Nominee).....
3f..... 11, Herbert Park, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.....
to hold a collection of..... (a) ~~Public Works and Public Places generally (rolling a barrel from~~
and ~~and Athlone between 08.00 and 12.00 November, 1979.~~
in the locality of.....
within the Division of..... Dublin Metropolitan Area, South.....
on..... 19th and 20th..... day(s) of..... November..... 1979.....
between the hours of..... 9.00..... a.m./p.m. and..... 10.00..... a.m./p.m.
for the benefit of..... Camrueha and Gongaga Vincent de Paul.....
subject to the provisions of the Street and House to House Collections Act, 1962, and the conditions
attached to and set out in this permit.

Signed..... .....
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT for
Chief/Supt. P.C. Crown

One of a series of Garda permits, allowing the team to collect on various segments of the route to Athlone.

-- o O o --

Fr Dermot Murray's letters are a rich source of the concerns of a headmaster over eight busy years – the minutiae of dress and lockers and rules about homework; changes in timetable and the provision of soup at lunchtimes; the organisation of Sports Day; student behaviour at parties; and above all, the preservation of the Jesuit vision of education. Included among the smaller details: the felling of the Lombardy poplars on the avenue in 1981.

Among the collection of letters from the office (donated by Charley O'Brien) are details of the beginnings of a French Exchange programme, and regular visits to Stratford-upon-Avon – in the early days, a joint venture with the other Jesuit schools. All the participants were accommodated in Soly House, a hostel run by the remarkable Fr John Heslin. These trips were designed as opportunities for students and teachers of the sister colleges to meet; the archivist vividly recalls the impression made on him by the current Minister for Finance, then a teacher of English at Crescent Comprehensive

Trips to Greece also feature at quite frequent intervals

- Day 4 Naflion/ Tiryns/ Olympia
 Mon 25 First stop at Tiryns, well preserved ruins of Mycenaean fortifications; tour continues across the mountains of the Peloponnese; picnic lunch and swim; Olympia, the Panhellenic sanctuary where the Olympic Games were first held in 776 b.c. Games in the stadium (optional*); visit to the museum to see the Heracles of Praxiteles and the sculptures of the pediments of the Temple of Zeus by Phidias.
- Day 5 Olympia/Patras/Antirion/ Delphi**
 Tues 26 Morning departure for the port of Patras and ferry crossing to Antirion; along the gulf of Corinth, swim and relax; on to Delphi. Visit to the Sanctuary, climb the sacred way to consult the oracle, on up to the stadium, carved out of the hillside and the theatre;
- Day 6 Visit to the Museum and the Sanctuary of Athena; lunch by the Castalian Spring.
 Wed 27 Departure for Athens-Piraeus and overnight sailing to Crete.
- Day 7 Arrival in Heraklion; morning visit to Knossos, wander through its corridors, admire the restored frescoes, imagine the happenings at the court of Minos. Lunch, swim, relax at Amnisos.
 Thur 28
- Day 8 Morning visit to the Museum to see some of the vast collection of Minoan treasures; time to wander about the markets. Bus to Hagios Nikolaos for a few days to enjoy the warm, blue Aegean and swim, swim, swim.
 Fri 29
 Sun : Byzantine liturgy at local church.

Detail from Greek Tour June 22nd to July 6th, 1979

Staff Changes

This was a time in the history of Gonzaga that brought some dramatic changes.

The first woman to join the staff, Maire O’Kelly, came to teach Prep 1 in 1968. She has written about her experience; particularly the courtesy of her exclusively male colleagues, but also of how they had to acclimatise themselves to the new phenomenon of a female sharing their working environment.



Maire O’Kelly with the Class of 1980 in Prep 1

The presence of women on the Prep staff quickly ceased to be unusual. Some, like Josephine McGrane, and Hazel Martin who taught Art, remained for only a

short time. There were other women involved in the Saturday school programme – Daphne Felton taught drama.



Maire O’Kelly and Josephine McGrane with members of the staff soccer team (backs to camera), 1972-1973



The Prep School in May 1970. Hazel Martin is seated to Maire O’Kelly’s right. Between them is Mr Noel McCarthy, then class teacher of Prep 2. Between Fr John Redmond and Fr Andrews, Mr Duffy, teacher of Prep 3, who also taught singing.

One of the lady teachers who worked in both senior and junior schools was Marilyn Hurley Bimstein.



Marilyn Bimstein (*top left, behind the class*) with the Class of 1985 in prep days. Top right behind the class is Fr Paul Farquharson SJ, Prep School Prefect of Studies from 1975 – 1983

Marilyn Bimstein will be remembered for her work with choirs in the cold and draughty environment of the old stage – in use as a classroom until the ‘block of eight’ made it redundant – and for her inventive teaching of English. Apart from the introduction of a very modern reading list for younger classes, she introduced students to the nature of advertising – ‘Glittering Generalities’ – and to the art of haiku. A specimen of the attempts at this genre by the Class of 1980 (then S.2 and 2A) appears on the following page.

Dawn

Clean shafts of light spear
a hazy morn, dancing on
frivolous waters.
G. C.

Twittering magpies
enjoying tranquility,
happily singing.
P. B.

The golden leaves run
over the ground as alive
as a flock of wrens.
R. G.

The craggy peaks climb
from the barren rocks towards
frothing, swirling clouds.
Peter J.

Tree

Blowing with the breeze,
it rustles its yellow leaves
in the clear blue sky.
A. R.

Drifting slowly, the
lone seagull floated through the
silken morning haze.
Peter C.

The raindrop trickled
slowly down the satin-like
lining of the leaf.
D. McC

Golden leaves fluttered
off in the gentle wind that
hovered above the ground.
K. McG.

Stars

Guardians of the vast
universe: Pale beacons of
light for sleeping worlds.
S. C.

Where are the animals?
Where are the bright green kind trees?
Do they hide from cold?
M. S.

Babbling brooks mean-
der through lush open country
'til they reach rivers.
R. B.

Evening sunset

Blending with evening
sky, gaily stabbing nature
with patches of bright orange
D. Br.

The ginger furry
Buddha swings gracefully from
branch to low branch.
W. D.

The dark/light clouds
rush across a blue inter-
woven world of skies.
J. K.

The sound of silence
through clean air burns my
nostrils
with its sharp freshness.
M. L.

Rain

Riddling the earth with
pips of liquid, ensuring
no aridity.
P. M.

The blinding sun o-
verpowers the grey clouds to
make an appearance.
M. M.

Swirling, winding, lift-
ing, dancing curling, rolling--
the happy gust plays.
B. W.

Spring

This is the season
of life when greenness returns
and gladness is back.
S. B.

Rain

Mottled blue patchwork:
a seeping cold liquid falls
leaking from torn seams.
M. L.

Sun filters its rays
in a never-ending stream
through a cracked window.
D.Br.

Nature's gentle lungs
blow lingering scents from her
open, active pastures.
S. C.

Haiku – the Class of 1980

Comings and goings of staff, a regular feature in any school, are more frequent in those in which the religious predominate. Fr Veale's extraordinary contribution to the college ended in 1971. Fr John Redmond SJ, whose role included Christian Formation in the Prep School, left for Belvedere in 1975.



Fr John Redmond SJ in a photo taken by Michael Laffan ('63) in June 1963

For many years Fr Redmond had been president of Gonzaga's conference of St Vincent de Paul. He retired from this position in 1972 and, in appreciation of his work with them and with obvious affection, the members of the conference presented him with a book, whose fly-leaf they inscribed:-

Andrew Fitzpatrick
 Alan Fitzgerald
 Eamon O'Leary
 Michael Doyle
 Kevin McLean
 Noel Crowley
 John Giel
 Patrick McGrath
 Charlie Brennan
 Brian Conroy
 Marc Brayney
 Tim Bourne
 Gerard Earley
 Roger Conan
 Bobby McDonough
 Alan O'Neill
 Eamon Way
 Maurice Sheehan
 Paul Gill
 Redmond O'Hanlon
 Declan Neagheer

DUBLIN : A PORTRAIT

John David Biggs
 John Costello
 Michael O'Kelly
 Austin Matthews
 Brian O'Keefe
 Brian Skerrett
 Paul O'Connell
 Alexis John O'Leary
 Bryan Patrick Fitzgerald
 Roy O'Donnell
 B.P. Mac Mahon

Tuesday, 18th Jan., 1972
 Presented to me by the
 boys of the V. de P.
 Conference at my last
 meeting with them in
 the Ladies Day-Room of
 the Royal Hospital.
 The end of eight happy years.

John Redmond, P.

Robert Toward
 John Brennan
 Francis Ebert
 John Boyer
 Paul Higgins
 Michael de Courcy
 Albert Shallock
 Geoff Buckley
 Mark Toward
 Paul Curran
 Michael Hayes
 Vincent Crowley
 Peter Nolan
 Oliver Murphy
 Rodric Gussie
 Paul O'Kelly
 J. Conboy
 James Meenan
 Conor Bennett
 Frank Callaghan
 Ken Smiley, Father
 It makes people wonder
 what you've just been
 into. James Conley.

(56)

Presentation to Fr John Redmond on his retirement as president of the Gonzaga Conference of St Vincent de Paul, 1972.

Fr Paul Farquharson SJ, as Prep School Prefect, took over Fr Redmond's role until 1983, when Mr Daniel McNelis was appointed Headmaster, the first lay man to be put in such a position in the college, a position he held until the final closure of the Prep.

1971 saw the arrival of Frs Alan Mowbray SJ and Frank Buckley SJ. Both men played a significant role in the formation of senior boys; Frank Buckley's lifelong love of art prompted his leadership of the trip to Greece illustrated above, and the impression left on the school by Alan Mowbray's twelve years there is outlined in *Gonzaga at Sixty* (p. 85).



Alan Mowbray minding the post, staff v student soccer.



Mr Michael Bevan (*right*), another new arrival, with F.X. Buckley SJ (*left*) and Miceal Greene.

The start of the decade brought a group of young men (Noel McCarthy, John Mulgrew, Michael Bevan, Gerry Murphy, Denis Cusack) who would effectively all see out their professional careers teaching in the college. Others, men and women who have had long careers in Gonzaga, quickly followed.⁸

⁸ Of the many not mentioned here, a fuller account will be given in a later edition of this volume.

Of Fr Joe Brennan SJ, who has now served in Gonzaga for over forty years, there will be much more to say.

Mr Noel McCarthy

‘Ah, but lads! How could we possibly lose?’ Alan Mowbray explains the universe.

Staff-student soccer 1973-4

To the back, left of picture, are Gerry Whelan and James Mullen



Clearly a goal, O’Cleirigh!

Staff-student soccer, 1973-74



Back l-r: Tom O'Brien SJ, Brian McCarthy, Peadar Kirby, Alan Mowbray SJ, Joe Keaney SJ, Denis Cusack
Front l-r: Myles O'Reilly SJ, Hubert Delaney SJ, Kevin Whirly, Micheal Greene

Match result: 3-0 to the staff.
Goals scored by: K Whirly



Once again, David Nolan:

‘In the photograph with Peadar Kirby I can identify as follows from left to right (*and to right of Peadar Kirby*): the boy with the white polo neck and longish black hair is Charles Kingston (*or Eddie McCarron?* Ed.) In the distance, his eyes closed and looking bashful is Peter O’Sullivan. Beside him an ecstatic James Mullen who seems to have spent all his time clapping hands (it’s not my memory of him!). Gerry Whelan is to the fore and beside him, wearing a white pullover with a zip down the front is Peter Cassidy. To the extreme right is Barry Delaney,’ *The editor adds the possible identity of a leather-jacketed James O’Cleirigh*

Students

Class of 1970

Nicholas Butler
Justin Carroll
Paul Coulson
Kevin Cross
John Curran
David Davin-Power
Jeffrey Davis
Paul Duffy
Eugene Dunne
Declan Fearon
Conal Forbes
Kieran Geoghegan
John Healy
Kevin Jennings
Brian Kenny
Peter Lenehan
Edward Lewis
Gerard Linehan
Francis Macken
Philip Mahoney
Derek J. Mathews
Mark Mathews
David McCarthy
Philip McDonagh
Michael O'Hanlon
Michael O'Malley
Shane O'Neill
Ronan Reynolds
John Robinson
Francis Russell Murphy

Brendan Smith
Bernard Tormey
Brian Whitaker
Geoffry White

Class of 1971

David Bergin
Richard Berney
Benedict Blayney
Terry Brugha
Denis Candy
Peter Carvill
Eamonn Ceannt



Richard Clarke RIP

Brendan Coakley
Brian Cooney
Dominic Coyle
Ciaran de Bhaldrath
Conor Donnelly
Vivian Doyle-Kelly
John Finlay
Hugh Fitzpatrick

Michael Galvin
James Hickey
Mark Hickey
Jeremy Kearney
Cathal Loughney
Oisín O'Buachalla
Rory O'Donovan
Paul O'Duffy
David O'Higgins
Hugh Purcell
Grellan Rourke
Ronan Sheehan
Simon White

Class of 1972

Nicholas Beale
John-David Biggs
Chris Booth
Roger Conan
John Costello
Vincent Crowley
Eugene Davy
Oliver Fitzgerald
Hugo Flinn
Paul Gill
Michael Hayes
B. Ross MacMahon
Mark MacMahon
Gerard Mathews
Robert McDonagh
Oliver Murphy
Peadar Nolan

Paul O'Connell
Rory O'Donnell
Eunan O'Halpin
Paul O'Higgins
Michael O'Kelly
Alan O'Neill
Brian Redmond
Maurice Sheehan

Class of 1973

David Alexander



Conor Barrington RIP

Shane Bastable
Joseph Bergin
Charlie Brennan
Brian Briscoe
Ruari Brugha
John Cantwell
James Coyle
Gerard Crowley



Cillian de Bhaldrath RIP



Michael de Courcy RIP

Andrew Doyle
Keith Doyle
Francois Eliet
Peter Finlay
Andrew Fitzpatrick
Peter Forde
Mark Galvin
David Hickey
Peter Kidney
Kevin McCann
Niall McCarthy
William McCrea
Patrick McGrath
Owen McNally
Declan Meagher
James Meenan

Justin O'Callaghan
Redmond O'Hanlon
Paul O'Kelly
Paul O'Kelly
Freddy Rogerson
Vincent Rourke
Patrick Ryan
Robert Towers

Class of 1974

Brian Alexander
Mark Blaney
John Bolger
John Brennan
Geoffry Buckley
Francis Callanan
Noel Coakley
Niall Crowley
Basil D'Arcy
Peter Duggan
Gerard Earley
Paul Eustace
Kyran Fitzgerald
John Gill
Patrick Hawe
Richard Hayes
Aidan Mathews
Morgan McCreadie
Redmond McDonnell
Richard Mulcahy
James O'Cleirigh
Redmond O'Hanlon

Mark Towers

Class of 1975

Paul Barrington
Peter Booth
Michael Byrne
Darach Connolly
Henry Counihan
Maurice Crowley
David D'Alton
Eoin Dillon
Peter Dudley
Roderick Ensor
Bernard Farrell
Michael Finnegan
Hugh Fisher
John Fisher
Mark FitzGerald
James Fitzpatrick
Declan Hayes
Richard Holland
John Kearney
Gordon Lynch
Frank Macken
Brendan McCann
Lonan McDowell
Stephen McGrath
Charles Meenan
Max Miller
David Mulcahy
Michael Murphy
Earnain O'Cleirigh

Eoin O'Donnell
Niall O'Loughlin
Padraig O'Nuallain
William Quirke
Nigel Reddy
John Redmond
Dermot Roden
Jeremiah Sheehan
Laurence St.John
David Viani
Jim Walsh

Class of 1976

Denis Beale
Denis Bergin
Gerard Berney
David Coulson
Andrew D'Arcy
Colm de Bhaldraithe
Diarmaid de Paor
Arthur Duff
Simon Ensor
Gregory Forde
Justin Geoghegan
David Jordan
Paul Kearney
Dermot Kenny
Paul Kidney
Richard Lavelle
Kevin Lynch
Edward McCarron

Niall McCullough
Paul McCutcheon
John McDowell
John McInerney
Peter McMahon
Michael McRedmond
John Newman
Lughaidh O'Cleirigh
Michael O'Connell
Roderick O'Hanlon
Ronan O'Loughlin
Nicholas Sutton
Hugh Tinney



Frank Walsh RIP

Class of 1977

Joseph Appleby
John Beale
Maurice Bergin
Mark Bergin
Fergus Bolger

Brendan Briscoe
Hugh Browne
Brian D. Buggy
Edward Burke
Colman Candy
John Carroll
Timothy Carton
Raymond Cotter
Raymond Cross
Larry Cuffe
Brian Cullen
Raymond Delany
Alexis Donnelly
Rupert Dowling
Edmund Doyle-Kelly
Paul Duggan
Richard Flinn
Michael Glazier
Anselm Griffin
Joseph Kidney
Anthony MacRedmond
Kieran McCann
Eoin McCarthy
Paul Meagher
Hugh Mulcahy
David Nolan
Robert O'Byrne
Joseph O'Dea
Kieran O'Dwyer
Colm O'Higgins
Kieran O'Reilly
Eoin O'Shea
Michael Roden
Peter Veale
Kevin Wren

David Wyld

Class of 1978

David Caron
Peter Cassidy
John Coolican
Philip Crowley
Luan Cuffe
Barra de Bhaldraithe
Barry Delaney
Conor Hayes
Roger Hill
Pdraig Kenny

Simon Keogh
Charles Kingston
Michael Lavelle
Eric Long
Derek McCormack
Feichin McDonagh
Mark McDowell
Justin McKenna
Joseph McMullin
Simon Meagher
Peter Mooney
James Mullen
Hugh Munro
Mark Nolan
Ciaran O'Carroll
John O'Donnell
Conor O'Duffy

Darragh P O'Neill
Gerard O'Reilly
Charles O'Reilly-Hyland
Peter O'Sullivan
Chris Owens
Julian Plunkett-Dillon
Stephen Quilligan
Peter Rayel
Mark Roden
Conor Sheehan
Thomas St John
David Tempany
Douglas Veale
Kevin Walsh
Gerard Whelan

Class of 1979

Aonghus O'Donnell
John Lemass
Brian Bolger
Diarmuid Brennan
Seamus Brennan
Gregory Burke
Paul Coffey
Thomas Comerford
Brian Cregan
Mark Cuffe
Peter Cullen
Paul Cullen
Tom Cunningham
Peter Curran
Robert Davys
Daniel de Chenu

Donal de Paor
Patrick Dillon
David Farrell
Mark Haccius
Maurice Hickey
Edward Keelan
Philip Kenny
Mark Long
Mark Lynch
Donal MacDougald
John McCann
Maurice McCrum
Eoin McCullough
Gregory Miller
John Murray-Hayden
David O'Brien
Tiernan O'Cleirigh
Herber O'Farrell
Barry O'Halpin
Donal O'Mahony
Denis Ryan
John Wilson

R.I.P.

One of the objectives of the Archive is to build, where possible, a database of biographies of alumni – or a collection of ‘brief lives’, as the Elizabethan diarist John Aubrey might have termed it.

This objective is of even greater importance in the case of those who have left us.

As of now, the archive has no memoirs of the deceased of the decade 1970 -1979. We warmly encourage brief memoirs or appreciations, of any of those listed below for later inclusion in this volume.

These may be emailed to the archivist at gonzagaarchive@gmail.com

Class of 1971

Richard Clarke

Class of 1972

Bernard McGrath

Class of 1973

Conor Barrington
Cillian de Bhaldrathie
Michael de Courcy

Class of 1974

Tim Bouwmeester
Michael Brennan

Class of 1975

Dermot Roden

Class of 1976

David Fitzgerald

Frank Walsh

Class of 1977

James Bates
Colman O'Higgins
Hugh Browne

Class of 1978

Conor O'Duffy

Class of 1979

Donal de Paor

-- oOo --

Class Photos

The Chapel Corridor in Gonzaga has photos of all the graduating classes from 1976 onwards – nothing earlier.

One of the archive's objectives is to rectify this omission, but there is a problem: we don't possess individual class photos prior to 1965. And there is a problem even with those we do possess: because of the number of students who left at the end of Fifth Year, the final class photo doesn't include everyone who is listed as belonging to 'the Class of 19-whatever'.

There are photos of large school groups. As the school numbers increased, separate photos of the Prep and Senior Schools became the norm. Members of past years have generously donated many of these, but in most cases with no regard for a future archivist – so, without date or class identity, in the confident expectation 'well, of course they'll recognise us!'

The archive has done its best to identify the photos which follow.

They belong broadly to your era.

They include you.

Please help by correcting the dates.

Mail your corrections to gonzagaarchive@gmail.com

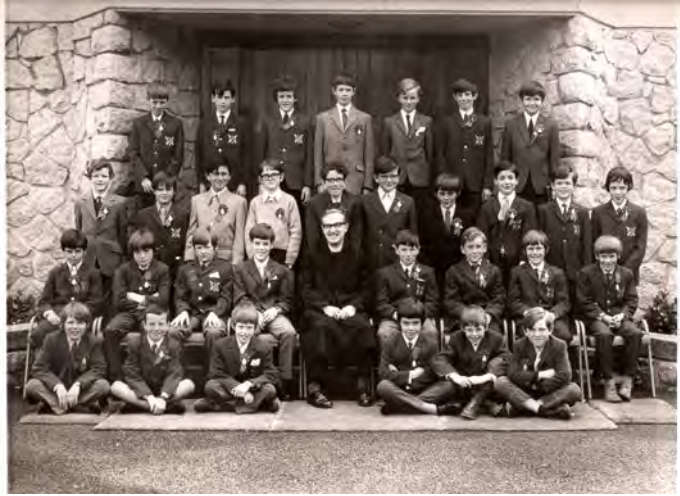
Thank you!



Confirmation – the Class of 1973



Confirmation, Spring 1972: the Class of 1978



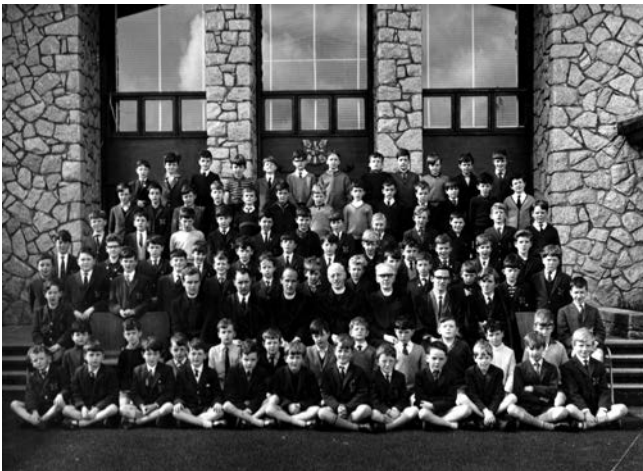
Confirmation – the Class of 1979



Confirmation – the Class of 1982



The Prep School – 1964. The lay masters have been named *(left to right)* as Messrs Stapleton, Ahearne and Redmond



The Prep School – probably in 1965/66. Included are the Classes of 1974/75, and Fr Edmund Murphy SJ, Prefect of Studies 1965/67 *(to the right of Fr White)*.



School photo – 1969



School photo – 1970



Sixth Year, 1970

Back row: Michael O'Malley, Eddie Lewis, Mark Mathews, Philip Mahony, John Healy, Kevin Cross, Frank Russell
Murphy

Front row: Derek Mathews, Philip McDonagh, Kieran Geoghegan, Fr White SJ, John Curran, Justin Carroll, Brian Kenny



The Class of 1971



The Class of 1972



The Class of 1973 *(photo taken in 1972)*



The Class of 1974



The Class of 1975



The Class of 1975



School photo – undated



The Class of 1976 – undated



The Class of 1976 – undated



An undated school photo which included the Classes of 1972 and 1973



The Class of 1977 as juniors



The Class of 1980 in Prep 1



The Class of 1981 in Prep 1

Seventies Alumni

The college has quite a number of ‘high-profile’ alumni, but what of all the others?

Scanning the classlists as they were being edited into this volume, the archivist made a quick selection of those about whom he knew something; on that basis, a very imperfect list.

Including even an imperfect list is a deliberate strategy; an incentive to provoke someone to begin to compile a fuller list of the huge variety of careers and achievements of Gonzaga alumni; a goad to others to say ‘Hey! Why wasn’t so-and-so included? Why (indeed!) was I left out?’

Your thoughts, contributions⁹ and objections to gonzaagarchive@gmail.com

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Many men have, in different ways, become benefactors of the college. **Paul Coulson’s** (’70) invaluable support of the major college developments has already been acknowledged; the new theatre bears his name. Humorously, he has acknowledged that the stage is probably the last place anyone has ever seen him. He was, on the other hand, a very successful tennis-player during his school days, and probably as a junior rugby player; he appears, as a member of

⁹ In the case of the deceased, obituaries or appreciations are urgently requested

Prep 2, in the 1961 photo of 'The Lions' in the rugby section later.



Paul Coulson, *centre* with Tom Finlay and John Curran, 1961

The Community's house History records his early tennis successes

*Our Tennis Teams had a most successful season.
The Senior Team won The Leinster Senior Schools' Cup by
defeated Belvedere at Mayfield L.T.C. on June 1st.
The Junior Team was narrowly defeated in the Final of
the Junior Cup by Temple on June 2nd at Brookfield L.T.C.
(Seniors VI. - A. Eason, J. Sheehan, P. Murphy, P. Coulson,
D. Brennan, B. Morris.
Juniors VI - P. Coulson, D. Brennan, T. McLaughan,
O'O'Riachalla, P. Matthews, S. Ryan.*

Paul was later instrumental in providing new tennis courts for the college.

The late **Richard Clarke** (71) willed a fine collection of his personal library to the college. There are some forty books, including Greek and Latin texts, commentaries, philosophy and history of civilization, as well as poetry. The entire donation can be viewed at <http://scooter.oslo.ie/cgi-bin/koha/opac-search.pl?q=richard+clarke&limit=branch%3AGON>

There are also those who have served the college directly as members of the Board of Management, among them two men of the law, **Rod Ensor ('75)** and **Feichin McDonagh ('78)**



*Feichin McDonagh
rehearsing the part of
Godfrey Cass for the Class
of 1978's production of
'Silas Marner'*



Rod Ensor, SCT 1975

Many Gonzaga men have of course been active in the field of justice and the support of the less privileged. **Mark Fitzgerald ('75)** of Sherry Fitzgerald chairs the board of Amawele, an organisation, which creates and supports partnerships between schools in Ireland and South Africa through curricular based activities and educational exchanges; the two **Lavelle** brothers, **Richard ('76)** and **Michael ('78)** have both made large contributions to the running of Fr Peter McVerry's Welcome Home Trust, including the running of the annual fund-raising cycle, in which members of the Gonzaga community have often taken part.



*Dick Lavelle,
SCT 1975*

Others have been public servants of the state. Both **Philip ('70)** and **Bobby ('72) McDonagh** have had distinguished careers as Irish ambassadors abroad. This pair distinguished themselves, of course, as debaters, both becoming President of the Oxford Union – a rarity for an Irish undergraduate, and an exceptional double in terms of that society.



As the school regards wide-eyed a visiting rugby legend, Barry Bresnihan, a young Philip McDonagh suggests, by his inattention, that his interests may tend towards more literary pursuits.

Niall Crowley ('74) was so effective as the State's first Equality Officer that the government moved to curtail his activities, prompting his resignation.



Niall Crowley gets the ball away for Gonzaga

His brother **Philip ('78)** has been National Director of Quality and Patient Safety in the HSE since 2011. In an early volume of *The Gonzaga Record* Philip recounted some of his experiences as a medical trainee among the people of Nicaragua.

Philip Crowley (centre) rehearsing 'Silas Marner'; his lines had much to do with identifying a Red Durham cow and disputing the existence of ghosts.



Three names spring to mind in the educational sphere. **Oliver Murphy ('72)** taught Maths and kept Greek alive in Belvedere for many years before becoming Principal of Castleknock College. In *Gonzaga at Sixty*, he pays tribute to the two men who most influenced him educationally: John Wilson and Raymond Kearns. Author of a Maths text-book himself, he dedicated it in tribute to Ray.

Jim Walsh ('75) is an accountant but for a time returned to Gonzaga to teach Economics. At some time, perhaps during his spell as a teacher, he had a period in India as a volunteer, an experience after which he found it difficult to return to Irish life.



At Gonzaga Jim also trained rugby – trained, in fact, one of Gonzaga's most renowned teams: the JCT that drew the 1989 final, forcing a replay at Lansdowne.

Left: Jim Walsh, Senior Cup Team 1975

A Wikipedia entry on **Eunan O'Halpin's ('72)** distinguished academic career lists his membership of the Royal Irish Academy and sub-committees thereof. He is also a member of the National Archives Committee. At TCD he holds the Professorship of Contemporary Irish History.



*JCT 1968/1969.
Eunan O'Halpin is
second from
right, back row.
A copy of his
'Spying on
Ireland: British
intelligence and
Irish Neutrality in
the Second World War' is available in the school library*

The list of those involved in the Arts gets longer and longer. **James Hickey ('71)**, appointed CEO of Bord Scannán na hÉireann in 2011, is a Partner of and Head of the Media and Entertainment law group of Matheson Ormsby Prentice. James is recognised internationally as a leading expert in the field of film and television production. He is well known for representing many leading Irish film and television production companies as well as actors, writers, directors, composers and for working in the field of media and entertainment law. He was formerly Chairman of the Projects Arts Centre and the Abbey Theatre and has had a lifetime commitment to the Irish film industry.



JCT 1967 - James Hickey (*centre*) with Mark Mathews (*left*) and Brian Whitaker

The number of Gonzaga's practising musicians has increased enormously in recent years. In this decade, **Hugh Tinney ('76)** stands out as an Irish pianist who is internationally recognised as a prize-winner and performer.



One of a number of Hugh's recordings which he has kindly donated to the school music library



Among Hugh's other achievements at school was a coldly frightening performance of Thomas Becket's intellectual fourth temptation in the 1976 production of 'Murder in the Cathedral'. He is to the extreme left of the picture, in the part of Fourth Knight. **Niall McCullough**, hand on altar, is to his right

Individual performers tend to be better known than musicians who have given no less of their lives to music. **Niall O'Loughlin ('75)**, who left Gonzaga the year before Hugh, has been a cellist with leading orchestras, including the RTESO, since he left. He has been lead cellist in that orchestra for many years.

Of Gonzaga's many published writers, the poets just about take the lead among alumni of the 1970s – but not all of them are exclusively poets. **Philip McDonagh ('70)** and **John O'Donnell ('78)** can boast of three volumes each (though the library is less than up-to-date with their work, boasting only one collection of each).



The song the Oriole Sang:

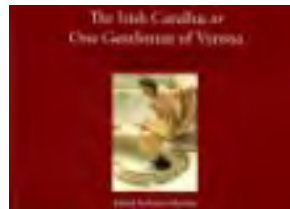
a collection of poems by Philip McDonagh

Aidan Carl Mathews ('74) has written in a variety of forms including the novel and the short story as well as poetry, and is, to the best of our knowledge, the first to have had a play produced on one of the Abbey Theatre's stages. His spiritual reflections, often heard on RTE radio where he is producer of religious programmes, have a notable profundity and lyrical grace.

Aidan Carl Mathews



Ronan Sheehan ('71) has been prolific too, one of his recent ventures being the most exciting Catullus project, *The Irish Catullus, or One Gentleman of Verona*. It consists of translations of all 116 poems in English and Irish translations by Irish writers



Frank Callanan ('74) and **Brian Cregan ('79)**, senior counsel and High Court judge respectively, have each taken the same period of history as their theme, the former in a historical work on T.M.Healy and the latter in his 'Parnell – a novel'. Frank has also produced a history of the L. & H. for the period 1955-2005



Frank Callanan (second from right) in a photo taken by his father Fionnbar Callanan, the distinguished photo-journalist



Robert O'Byrne ('77), some-time fashion correspondent for *The Irish Times*, is also a wonderful humorist. His delightfully tongue-in-cheek publications on social manners include *The Perfectly*

Groomed Gentleman and his equally indispensable guide to good manners.



His passion for style is also evident in three significant works on the history of design in Irish and English great houses, including Luggala, one of the Guinness properties.

In somewhat of the same vein, architect **Niall McCullough ('76)** is the author of the richly illustrated and informed *Dublin: an urban history: the plan of the city*. He and his partner Valerie Mulvin have made McCullough Mulvin Architects into an award-winning firm, involved in significant social projects.

Rush County Library,

*McCullough Mulvin
Architects*



Three fine photographic landscapes by **Daniel de Chenu ('79)** still hang in the corridor leading to the Science Block. Photography Course Co-ordinator in the School of Creative Arts, iadt, Dun Laoghaire, he has a number of national and international exhibitions to his credit. On 29th June, 2014, *The Sunday Times* Culture section showcased 'the rise of the photobook among contemporary photographers', citing among others Daniel's 'photobook of his series 'Geomorphology'. The series explores, through landscape images, the magic and mystery of de Chenu's vision of the natural world.'

A slight sidestep brings us neatly via the creative and performing arts to **John McCann ('79)** now a monk at Glenstal Abbey but also a talented composer. John was the college organist during his days in the school. Two other men of this generation are priests: **Ciaran O'Carroll** and **Gerry Whelan SJ**, both of the Class of 1978.



Gerry Whelan SJ gives his blessing to Fr Peter Sexton SJ after celebrating his first Mass in Gonzaga Chapel

Ciaran's career has taken him in numerous directions since we first saw him carrying the Gospels in attendance on Pope John-Paul II in

Phoenix Park, 1979. both men are currently in Rome; Ciaran at the Irish College and Gerry at the Gregorian University.

The college has, in recent years, had some notable achievements (including one overall winner, David M. O’Doherty) in The Young Scientist Exhibition. Gonzaga had earlier achievements, however; too early to have been included in the first *Gonzaga Records*.



In 1970, **Peter Duggan** ('74), left, took second place in the Junior Physics Section.

Two years later, he was adjudged joint 2nd place overall winner for his physics project entitled

‘A simple, more efficient, less expensive colour television Cathode Ray tube, with associated circuitry’. He was later closely associated with the development of colour TV in RTÉ, where he has been working as an engineer ever since.



Given the number of references above to Gonzaga writers of this decade alone, it is appropriate to note that the entire contents of the Sutherland Library can now be searched on line. The website can be accessed at <http://gonzaga.ie/library.html> thereafter, follow the prompts to begin your search.

Business honours

Mark Roden ('78), founder and chief executive of (recently renamed) top-up mobile payments firm Ding, was named the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2014. Ding enables people living abroad to support family back home by facilitating the instant transfer of credit top-up to any mobile phone anywhere in the world.



Though strictly outside the scope of this decade, one cannot omit mention of another award at the same ceremony; **Peter Sutherland ('64)** received a special award in recognition of his profound contribution to Ireland's reputation internationally.

-- oOo --

Sport and Sportsmen

From a photographic point of view, the archive finds itself rather impoverished regarding the `seventies; once again, the invitation is there: send us your photos!

Chess



The school finally celebrated the remarkable (and ongoing!) successes of Gonzaga chess with the unveiling in the autumn of 2014 of a permanent tribute to teams and individuals.

A ‘sport’? In the words of Gonzaga’s first known Irish Junior Champion, **Edward Lewis** (*70), ‘unquestionably!’. Following a mediocre end-of-term report, he was advised by his mother to give up a successful participation in rugby; ‘It’s taking up too much of your time.’ Little did she know! Eddie Lewis

is very clear about the intensity of concentration and stress involved in competitive chess, not to mention the hours of study and practice.

He is recorded as having been Irish Junior Champion while in 3rd Year, 1967

John Dudley ('68), on a recent visit, disputed the Chess Wall's statement that a school chess club was first formed in 1976. He had himself formed a club among Prep 4 boys during a brief spell of teaching, probably five years earlier. Be that as it may, the school was winning competitive events by 1975, and won the Junior All Ireland championship for the first time in 1984. Stretching the time scale of this volume just a little, an informal picture of the team, with Gerry Murphy looking as if he has never seen a cup in his life. Little did he know!



(l-r) John Kehoe, Paul Higgins, Patrick Kennedy, Gerry Murphy, Dara Breslin, Paul Keelan and Rossa Phelan



Members of the first (*pace* John Dudley) chess club, founded 1976. Most of those in the back row belong to the Class of 1982

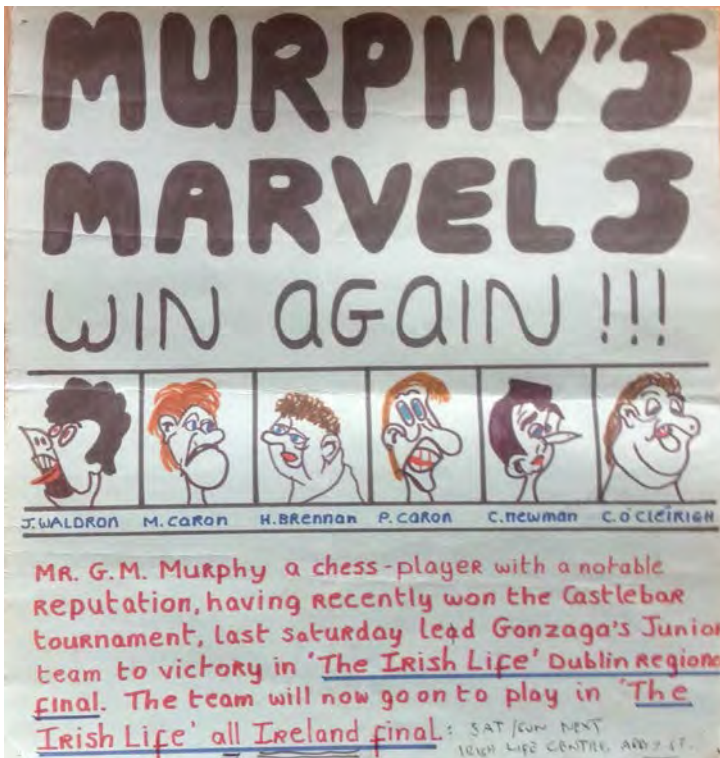
*Dr John Waldron ('82),
Assistant Professor of Computer
Science, TCD
Gonzaga Chess Champion from 1978 to
1982*



John Waldron

three times school
champion between
'78 - '82

In February 2014 **Denis Bergin ('76)** wrote to the archivist: *There was a team prior to the establishment of Gonzaga chess in 1976. Myself, Rod O'Hanlon and Colm de Bhaldrathe (all 1976) were boards 1,2,3. We did play outside of the school in competition but I cannot remember the details; I think we won our section in 1976.*



A not uncharacteristic piece of Gonzaga corridor art, encouraging support for a team.

International Honours

In 2013, the Gonzaga Union held a dinner at which it honoured alumni who had represented their country in sport. Three of these belong to the 1970s.

John Bolger ('74) represented Canada in the World Cross Country Championships in Lisbon, 1985

 Canadian Track and Field Association
Canadienne d'Athlétisme

333 River Road, Ottawa,
Ontario, Canada K1L 8H9
TELEPHONE: (613) 744-1160
TELEX: 053-2692
CABLES: CATFAT (Ottawa)

MEMORANDUM

TO: World Cross Country Team 1985

FROM: Gerard Nach, Head Coach

INFO: Board of Directors

DATE: February 11, 1985

RE: World Cross Country Championships, Lisbon

On behalf of the CTF and myself, I wish to congratulate you on your selection to represent Canada in the World Cross Country Championships on March 24, 1985 in Lisbon, Portugal.

TEAM STAFF

Team Leader and Head Coach: Tom Bowker
Team Manager: Frank Mann
Coaches: Don Mills and Doug Adams
Physiotherapist: W. A. Armstrong

WOMEN TEAM

Debbie Scott
Ellie Macrotte
Angela Chalmers
Sue French
Wanda Shackleton
Sandra Pettie

SELECT MEN TEAM

Paul McElroy
Marc Olsen
Cory Nelson
Allan Buckleton
Cord Chofatie
JAMES Scafford
Phil Lehnste
John Bolger
Norman Tinkhan

.../2

His pride in his selection for this event is probably exceeded by his delight in winning the Dublin City Marathon, 1990 – the only Dubliner ever to have won the event, and in a very fast time.

John Bolger crosses the line in the Dublin City Marathon, 29th October 1990



Jerry Sheehan (*75)

Jerry has given a detailed account of his own international career in tennis: *‘I played twice for Ireland at senior level , both times in what was known then as the Home International v England . I do not remember the dates but I believe it was about 1980 and 1982. Both matches were in the UK (where we played in alternate years) so there is a two year gap. The first was in Oxford Lawn Tennis Club (where I was made an Honorary Member, most likely out of pity, or possibly social skills in the bar) and the second was in Blackpool .*

‘In the first match I played Jeremy Bates and lost 6/4 6/3 in a decent match on a grass court. He went on to

be quite a good professional player. In the second singles match in Oxford I played a guy called Jeremy Dyer (who was better than he sounds) and I lost by a similar score which I don't exactly recall . There was a doubles at the end of the day which has been airbrushed from history and I can't speak about it!

'Teams in those days were made up of 2 men and 2 ladies.

'I have less memory of events in Blackpool save that the matches were much tighter but still did not manage a victory. I played a guy called Martin



Guntrip , who is regularly on court on the finals day at Wimbledon but not as a player , rather as secretary of the All England LT&C Club . I recall this as it was the first time I had played an opponent with the oversized Head racquet. It looked huge at first, as if the opponent only had to reach out and the ball would be returned. They have since gone out of fashion. I think they are banned now.'

Padraig Kenny ('78)



Padraig toured New Zealand with the Ireland rugby squad, and played in the Wellington test against the hosts on 6th June 1992



Against Japan (undated).

Gonzaga Rugby in the `Seventies

If the archive has had trouble completing its collection of class photos prior to 1985, it has had even greater difficulty collecting rugby team photos for the decade in question.

The present volume may be considered an interim version of the *Record* for the `seventies, so we await the missing photos.

Search your attics! Send your pictures, your press cuttings to gonzagaarchive@gmail.com

The photos include juniors who played on into the `seventies



JCT 1967-1968

Back: H Purcell, M Matthews, J Hickey, B, Whitaker, J Curran, M Sheehan, Michael Sheil SJ

Front: B Coakley, H Fitzpatrick, J Finlay, J Murphy (capt.), R Sheehan, C Geoghan, C Donnelly, R Clarke.

Seated: D Bergin, J Kearney, B Blayney

Match Report, 19th February 1970

Schools' rugby: Leinster Senior Cup

Penalty goal sees Roscrea through

ROSCREA 3; GONZAGA 0.

AFTER LOSING a 9-3 lead when the teams met for the first time under reasonable conditions a week ago, Gonzaga lost a player, and consequently the match in the second round replay of the Senior Schools Cup yesterday, Roscrea landing a penalty goal without reply.

Frost, followed by rain, reduced the Donnybrook pitch to a morass, so the injury to their left centre, Clarke, which put him out of action after only ten minutes, was a sore blow to Gonzaga. Up to that time, they had been the aggressors, and, while each side attacked in turn subsequently, the difficulties of scoring by any method presaged another draw.

By

PAUL MacWEENEY

In the first fifteen minutes after the interval, Roscrea almost broke the deadlock three times—a narrow miss by Finn with a penalty kick; a footrush foiled on the line and a tackle on Forde a yard or so from the objective.

SEVEN FORWARDS

Having survived those threats, Gonzaga looked to be capable of holding out, but the burden on seven forwards was just too heavy. Ten minutes from the end, Roscrea were awarded a penalty when an opposing back was spotted offside at a ruck, and from one of the few patches on which a few blades of grass were discernible, Finn kicked the goal from 25 yards range. During the remaining minutes, which included five extra for stoppages, the leaders had no difficulty in maintaining their advantage.

Although ball on the ground was the only feasible policy, Roscrea blended the foot rush with some surprisingly expert handling movements and looked to be better-armed all round. The pack kept well together, with everyone doing his share, and the accomplished out-half, D. O'Connell made the best use of O'Brien's quick and accurate service. Byrne, a big, strong centre, was difficult to stop and Finn was excellent at full-back, making few fielding errors on a day when many would have been excusable.

NATURAL FLAIR

The Gonzaga line-up was unusual in the fact that the scrum-half, Sheehan, was the tallest boy on the team, and clearly he was to dictate policy, but his natural flair was hampered by the mud. Nevertheless he got through a lot of useful, hard work, but little progress could be made by any of the other backs. The forwards put up a most gallant display, with Mathews, Finlay and Murphy especially effective, but the seven were gradually worn down in the closing stages.

Roscrea will meet Blackrock in the quarter-final round this day week.

Gonzaga—O. O'Boachalla; F. Rogerson, H. Powell, R. Clarke, C. Donnelly; D. Bergin, M. Sheehan; K. Gopplegan, S. O'Neill, J. Hickey, J. Davis, S. Matthews, J. Finlay, P. Murphy, P. O'Connell.

Roscrea—D. Finn; M. Brien, P. O'Brien, D. Byrne, S. McCarthy; D. O'Connell, E. O'Brien; J. O'Connor, J. Glennon, T. Kelly, E. Hayes; J. Morgan, M. Garvey, N. Forde, P. Moran.



JCT 1968-1969

Back: M Sheehan, B McGrath (rip)

2nd row: P O'Connell, F Rogerson, B Blaney,

3rd row: M Sheil SJ, D O'Higgins, P Gill, P Ryan, P O'Higgins, P Nolan, R McMahon

4th row: H Flinn, B Cooney, C Donnelly (capt.), E Davy, E O'Halpin, N Beale *Front:* C Brennan, R O'Donnell, J Costello, J Coyle



Back: Kevin Cross, Tom Finlay, Paul Conlson, John Curran, Peter Mathews, Kevin Barry,

Charles Delaney

Front: Danny McNelis, Conor Donnelly, Michael McCloskey, David Bergan, Michael O'Malley,

Conal Forbes



Under-11s rugby in 1970
Both photos by Fionnbar Callanan



Schools rugby: Leinster Senior Cup

Hard-fought victory for lively Gonzaga

King's Hospital win a duel for possession in a line-out during yesterday's Leinster Schools Senior Cup game, at Fortfield Road.—(Photograph: Dermot Barry)

GONZAGA 11; KING'S HOSPITAL 8

GONZAGA won a hard-fought Leinster Schools' Senior Cup tie (Section A), at Fortfield Road, yesterday. Indeed, there was the possibility of the winning margin being reduced to one point, but when D. Taylor scored a try in the dying seconds, King's Hospital decided not to take the conversion from a fairly wide angle, in the hope that they would have time to make a final assault on the line.

It was a good fight by King's Hospital, yet there could be no doubting that victory went to the better team. Having taken the lead in the second minute, Gonzaga never looked like losing it.

Having established an 11-4 advantage early in the second half, Gonzaga decided to run the ball. This they did with a measure of success in terms of yards gained—even if the efforts of M. Sheehan, M. Brennan and J. Meenan were not rewarded with scores. Sheehan, the Leinster full-back, emerged as the boy of the match. Not content to fulfil his routine duties without blemish, he was at hand to link up with the other backs.

E. Davy, the winners' out-half, lived up to one of the most famous names in Irish rugby. Davy and N. Crowley gave their side a slight advantage over T. McIlveen and J. Holt.

The front-line exchanges were splendidly contested, and of the four tries, forwards accounted for three of them. The King's Hospital scores—one in each half—from D. Woodruffe and Taylor, followed sustained pressure.

P. O'Connell, who with E. O'Halpin and P. Nolan, formed a very effective Gonzaga back-row, scored his side's first try. Sheehan had the second and it was 8-4 at the interval. Subsequently, the covering of Woodruffe and J. Elmes, allied to the keen tackling of centres K. Flood and E. Wallace, left no loopholes. But when the losers conceded a penalty in an easy position, Sheehan was on target.

Gonzaga College — M. Sheehan, H. Flinn, M. Brennan, J. Meenan, V. Crowley; E. Davy, N. Crowley; P. Gill, C. Brennan, P. O'Higgins, J. O'Callaghan, O. Fitzgerald, P. O'Connell, E. O'Halpin, P. Nolan.

King's Hospital School — S. Taylor; C. McDonald, K. Flood, E. Wallace, P. Dawson; T. McIlveen, J. Holt; A. Champ, D. Taylor, T. Kellest, S. Baily, F. Stephenson, J. Elmes, K. Nuzum, D. Woodruffe.

Leinster Senior Cup, 3rd December 1971



SCT 1972-1973, with Noel McCarthy

The 1972/73 season was marred by the untimely death of **Michael Brennan** on 24th January 1973. Reporting his death on the following day under the headline 'Schoolboy (16) dies after rugby game', *The Irish Times* referred to Michael's collapse on the pitch after a tackle, leaving the cause ambiguous. The subsequent autopsy report revealed a latent heart condition of the kind that has been the cause of death for many young players while in the course of games.

The newspaper sports reports of the many games in which Michael played on Gonzaga teams show that he was a player of very considerable talent and great value to his team.

His brother Charley is sitting, centre, above.

SCT 29th November 1972

Gonzaga 27
Presentation College,
Glasthule 16

This game at Sydney Parade provided an exciting finish with Presentation College getting to within four points of Gonzaga, who in the dying minutes scored 7 points to regain a big lead and finish the match with a somewhat flattering scoreline.

Neil Crowley, the Gonzaga scrum half, played with his left hand in bandages, as he had a broken finger. This affected his passing, a fault which seemed to spread through the back division.

The winners had the tonic of a score after five minutes when Andrew Fitzpatrick intercepted the ball on his own "25" and raced away to ground the ball behind his opponents' line, Michael Brennan adding the extra points. Thereafter, however, Gonzaga missed opportunities which almost cost them the match.

Gonzaga — C. Brennan (Capt.); P. Finlay, M. Brennan, A. Fitzpatrick, J. Meenan; M. Blaney, N. Crowley; D. Alexander, J. Coyle, F. Callanan; J. O'Callaghan, B. Alexander; P. McGrath, R. Towers, M. de Courcey.

Presentation College — T. Flood; P. Lenane, D. Coyle, P. O'Brien (Capt.), M. O'Connor; S. Murphy, F. Lannin; I. Larkin, P. Wahlrab, O. Murphy; D. Lyons, A. Hickey; P. de Foubat, D. Larkin, H. Flood.

Brennan Hero Of Gonzaga

By JIMMY MEAGAN

GONZAGA 9 pts

WESLEY 8 pts

Three penalty goals, the decisive one five minutes from the end, gave Gonzaga a somewhat fortunate win over a luckless Wesley.

Centre Michael Brennan, who landed all three, the second with a perfectly judged kick in difficult conditions, was obviously Gonzaga's hero.

But apart from the place-kicking department, all the attacking rugby was played by Wesley, who looked a very good bet to win at one stage of the proceedings.

Wesley, in fact, scored first with a well-taken try by right winger Dermot Lee, who linked through a couple of tacklers before crossing far out. Then followed two penalty goals by Gonzaga's Brennan to give the winners a 6-4 interval lead — an undeserving advantage considering all the attacking Wesley had done, a lot of it by constructive means.

Wesley led briefly after the interval when, this time, left winger Gerald Sloane finished off a neat handling movement with another try near the corner flag. What a pity Roger Anderson, who was entrusted with Wesley's place-kicks, was off form.

The two conversions would have been beyond the range of most place-kickers in yesterday's elements, but there were one or two other penalty kicking chances he might have gauged a little better.

Brennan, Andy Fitzpatrick, halves Mark Blaney and Nial Crowley, forwards Jim Cole, Justin O'Callaghan, Paddy McGrath and Robert Towers all impressed for Gonzaga.

For Wesley, who scored 62

SCT 1973 2nd round v. Belvedere
James Meenan leads the team onto pitch



SCT 1975 *photo: Fionnbar Callanan*

Archive item



GONZAGA OUST NEWBRIDGE

Gonzaga	6
Newbridge	4

Gonzaga provided a first-class surprise in the Leinster Schools' Senior Cup (second round) at Donnybrook yesterday, when they beat Newbridge by a goal to a try.

Although taking the field with a big weight disadvantage, every Gonzaga boy played with tremendous spirit and by the interval they had contained Newbridge to a try scored by Paul Morrison just before the change-over.

But the real turning point came when Mark Forkin, the Newbridge winger, had to retire with an injured leg, Richard McCann, coming out of the pack to replace him.

Newbridge, in fact, held on to their lead until seven minutes from the end when Niall Crowley brushed through a few tackles to cross near the posts. Gerry Sheehan converted and the rank outsiders—average age, 16—were in front.

They still had to experience a few agonising minutes, as Shane Roche shaped up to penalties in very kickable range. He missed—as if to prove conclusively that it wasn't Newbridge's day.

Gonzaga—R. Ensor; J. Kearney, M. Blayne, D. Coulson, R. Lavelle; J. Sheehan, N. Crowley; L. McDowell, D. Kenny, J. Brennan, P. Dudley, B. Alexander, J. Walsh, A. D'Arcy, M. O'Connell.

Newbridge—P. Jennings; M. Forkin, T. Nunan, S. Roche, P. Morrison; J. Lynch, D. Cafferky; S. Kavanagh, D. Crotty, G. Dowley, R. Kearney, G. Dowley, R. Kearney, G. Flood, R. McCann, E. Duffy, T. Deavir.



SCT 1977 *Back l-r* Ray Cotter, Michael Lavelle, John Carroll, Peter Mooney, Derek Mc Cormack, James Mullen, Phillip Kenny, Colman Candy *Front:* Brian Cullen, Colm O'Higgins (RIP), John O'Donnell, Joe Appleby (Capt.), Mark Mc Dowell, Roger Hill, John Murray-Hayden

:

The team pictured above were responsible for the following sensational draw against Belvedere:-

Gonzaga force draw in thrilling style

GONZAGA 3; BELVEDERE 3

THE MAIN action of the Leinster senior schools cup got off to a highly promising start at Donnybrook yesterday when Gonzaga and Belvedere scored a penalty goal each—a meagre-sounding tally for what was, in fact, a most exciting and enjoyable struggle.

This match typifies the state of the smaller schools — in a rough sense — in recent times in the standards of those who had for so long dominated these under 18 and under 19 competitions. Not so long ago one would only have been speculating on the margin for which Belvedere would have accounted for such as Gonzaga — indeed they were clinging on by their finger nails in the closing minutes.

BY PAUL MACWEENEY

They had a considerable weight advantage forward which enabled them to control possession but Gonzaga had the more lively half and thus contained their rivals in the back and main line when having to yield yards of ground in the set pieces.

Tackling was hard and quickly the Gonzaga defence brought and flustered prevented Belvedere from making a decisive break in any position behind the scrum and in the centre. Applby at number eight and his dedicated supporters, Lavigne and Callan were entirely adequate.

Had they been served with attacking half more frequently, those centres and full at number eight might have stretched the Belvedere cover to breaking point, as it was they contained some attacks in the early stages and in the closing minutes which had a decidedly menacing appearance.

Clearly, Belvedere were thrown out of stride by the quality of the opposition and apart from the set-piece, no significant use was made of the solid weight of the backs. Mahony and Fay Krause and J. F. Keane at number eight. The pack, as a whole, was not so well together as the Gonzaga eight and while there was plenty of potential in the running of Slatley at out half, Jennings in the centre and Kelly, a keen counter-attacking full-back, they were finally overwhelmed in the covering net.

Belvedere took the lead with a 20 yards penalty goal by Cathal McCreath who indicated his value as a marksman by placing the ball for the touch-down penalty kicks and getting maximum length with those.

Meanwhile, O'Higgins was seeking opportunities to find the target from long range but was better in side of the posts until at the fifth attempt, from 45 yards, he did manage to strike accurately, the ball bouncing over off the cross-bar for the opponent ten minutes from the end.

This stimulated Gonzaga into becoming a freely offensive and from having had to concentrate on defence for long periods previously,

HOW TO GET THE BEST FROM...

they moved the ball effectively among the backs. After losing the massive Mahony with a pulled hamstring eight minutes from the end, Belvedere were glad enough to hear the final whistle.

● The replay has been fixed for Tuesday next at 3.30.

GONZAGA — C. O'Higgins, P. O'Donoghue, J. Jennings, J. Mahony, J. Keane, A. Downes, Eamon Keane, J. Callan, J. Lavigne, J. Applby, R. Slatley.

BELVEDERE — J. Kelly, D. McCreath, J. Sweeney, J. Slatley, D. Jennings, J. Kelly, J. Kelly, J. Kelly, J. Kelly.

French players for world XV

WHILE France will not send a rugby team to South Africa next year, it is expected that players will be available for inclusion on W. J. McBride's World XV to meet a multinational team in Pretoria on August 27th.

The offer remains open for a multinational South African team to tour France in 1978, the president of the IFR said in an interview published in Paris yesterday.

M. Albert Ferrasse told the sports daily L'Equipe that he had a meeting with the president of the South African Rugby Board, Dr. Denis Craven. "I told him we were fully alive to the progress on the sports field in South Africa — progress marked by the selection of multi-racial teams. We are pleased that sport plays a role in bringing men together."

M. Ferrasse explained that France was unable to send a team to South Africa this summer, as Dr. Craven wished to keep a date was due to tour Argentina in June.

Belvedere hold out to earn a replay

BELVEDERE 3; GONZAGA 3

BELVEDERE had to defend desperately in the closing stages to draw (3-3) with the Leinster Schools Senior Rugby Cup at Donnybrook yesterday.

It was a most disappointing performance from Belvedere who were regarded as one of the strongest teams in the competition. They will certainly need to step up considerably on this display if they are to have any hope of recording their Leinster Cup success.

Gonzaga, of course, could well not as end to Belv's chances in the replay. They were easily worth the draw yesterday and finished the game a country.

With Leinster second-row John Mahony securing a lot of good line out possession, Belvedere looked slightly the stronger team in the opening half and took the lead three minutes before the interval when left wing Cathal McCreath landed a 35 yards penalty.

The Belvedere right winger Dan McCreath then missed a 40 yards penalty early in the second half, before Gonzaga brilliantly led by their number eight, Joey Applby, fought their way back into the game.

Full back Colin O'Higgins kicked the equaliser twenty-two minutes after the break. O'Higgins, who had earlier been off target with three long range attempts, landed the beautifully struck 45 yard kick which touched the crossbar before dropping over.

Belvedere's Mahony was re-

BY KIERAN ROONEY

placed by John Gray, because of an injury five minutes from the end and in the remaining time, Gonzaga had a number of opportunities to gain a shock victory.

First, O'Higgins fell short with a 40 yards penalty and Dan centre Ray Cotter had a dropped kick blocked after Gonzaga had been awarded a five yard scrum.

Belvedere — J. Kelly, D. McCreath, P. O'Donoghue, C. O'Higgins, J. Jennings, J. Mahony, J. Keane, A. Downes, J. Callan, J. Lavigne, J. Applby, R. Slatley.

GONZAGA — C. O'Higgins, P. O'Donoghue, J. Jennings, J. Mahony, J. Keane, A. Downes, J. Callan, J. Lavigne, J. Applby, R. Slatley.

SCHOOLS CUP REPLAY

The replay for the Leinster Schools Senior Cup match had been arranged for Donnybrook for 1.30 on Tuesday next, with extra time if necessary. The Junior Cup match between Gonzaga and Colmiste has been brought forward to Monday at the Swan Road (3.15).

TOP AWARD WINNER

In the subsequent replay, Belvedere were victorious 14-7, despite a Mark McDowell try.



Frame 1 shows Ray Cotter racing through Belvedere's defence to make a try for Mark McDowell (frame 2), giving Gonzaga a short-lived lead in the replay.

Sequence: Buzz Logan.

GNSB Times?
17th Feb 1938.

GONZAGA COLLEGE'S
ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE'S

A dog's lead from an inferior point in this national encounter and Peter Mooney six minutes after the end, gave Gonzaga their ticket into the next round against St. Paul's and their second try, was also a measure of tribute for the debut of their players at the hands of 254 same opponents.

The winners' pack were very busy in the home quarters, and the backbone, of Mick Lavelle, Derek McCormick and Patrick Kenny did an immense amount of useful covering while they were more sleep than the opposition in gaining possession from the scrum and John Wilson, a son of the Munster for Education street in the district.

Mooney and his partners, despite their fine facilities at Dalriada and, if the same had been mainly employed in a decisive way, they all tackled intelligently.

St. Paul's had a determined attacking pack, during the previous back yards in the set pieces with Liam Brock, John Foley and Tom Hillie as their main pillars of attack in the home.

Their tackle looked to have more potential than Gonzaga's, they were handicapped by the late heavy conditions and doubt thrown up by the part of accident David Slattery, though a fine work a splendid pass, and he was not helped by a lack of attention by his pack at the time.

After Foley was about with a penalty for St. Paul's, Gonzaga took the lead which they were never to lose. From the differential nature, just outside the 22, Hill passed to his partner Mooney, who dropped a fine goal.

Hill (twice) and Foley had opportunities from penalties, but with no success in the first half and they each had a chance when the interval had again their efforts failed.

In the last ten minutes St. Paul's managed for long periods on the Gonzaga 22 and they must have been forced only to touch on a number of occasions when they pushed the opposition over their line.

SCT versus St Paul's,

February 1978



Kevin Whirdy – date uncertain, but the player to his left is almost certainly Jeremy Maher (?81)

-- oOo --

TEAM PHOTO

One joker up on tiptoe at the back;
centre, the proud captain, holding ball. Arms
folded in a swagger, we were ready

for anything the world could hurl at us.
Pirate beards, teen-idol hair — the glamour:
we were sure to knock ‘em dead

in the bar after. Boots crusting with pitch-muck
and tradition; the jerseys that on fired-up afternoons
we’d sworn we’d die for. And (not in picture)

the all-in-this-together of it, lingering here
like the reek of Deep Heat in the changing-room
as players take the field to scattered cheers.

John O'Donnell

*from On Water, John's most recent collection of
poems, published in 2014*

- o O o -



On Friday 30th January 2015 over 100 past pupils from the 70's, together with the fathers of some members of this year's SCT and members of the coaching staff, gathered in the school for a celebration of Gonzaga rugby in the 70's and to announce the "Team of the Decade". This had been selected (in secret!) by Noel McCarthy (now retired, but the Senior Team coach during much of that era).

Fearing that the desire of some alumni to be included on the team might overcome their probity, the organisers arranged that the selection be delivered in a sealed envelope by none other than Mr. Whirdy.

Pictured above, the Team of the Decade (their playing positions in brackets), was

Back, l-r: Dick Lavelle (no.14), Kevin Lynch (no.2), David Bergin (no.3), Joe Appleby (no.4), Roger Hill (no.11), Jerry Sheehan (no.10), Jim Walsh (no.7), Mick O'Connell (no.6)

Front, l-r: Rod Ensor (no.15), Ray Cotter (no.13), Paddy Kenny (no.8), Justin O'Callaghan (no.5), Maurice Crowley, standing in for his brother Niall (no.9), Darach Connolly, for brother Mark (no.1). The absent number 3 is Frank Macken.

Tennis

Fortunately for the archive, Fr Keane was an avid photographer, so there do exist some photos of teams and players during this decade, as for the preceding ones. Fr Keane kept detailed notebooks of fixtures and teams, which have passed, since his death, into the hands of his family. At some stage it is possible we may recover them for the archive. His successor as chief tennis coach, David Keenahan, has kept equally faithful records since 1984. Pending recovery of earlier notebooks, the historian will find certain records of matches in the Jesuit ‘house history’ of the school, of which Fr Keane was himself the chronicler.



Junior Cup finalists, 1969

Back l-r: Eugene Davy, Maurice Sheehan, Robert McDonagh

Front l-r: Patrick Ryan, Benedict Blayney, François Eliet



Senior Cup winners, 1973

Back l-r: Hugh Tinney, Jerry Sheehan, François Eliet

Front l-r: David Mulcahy, Rod Ensor, Declan Meagher



Junior Cup winners(?) – Fr Keane has captioned, merely, ‘long-haired tennis’, and identified only three players. At a guess:-

Back l-r: David Coulson, Hugh Mulcahy, ---, Simon Ensor

Front l-r: Ed Doyle-Kelly, Hugh Tinney and Fr Keane



Junior Semi-finalists 1976; unidentified, but Brian Cregan is extreme left, back row; and first right is Conor McCullough, a future tennis international.



Minor Cup winners 1976. Again, unidentified; but the McDonogh brothers Jimmy and the late Gordon make their first appearance, flanking Conor McCullough in the front row.



Two undated photos, but inscribed 'From Jimmy and Gordon' and obviously treasured by Fr Keane. Both pictures feature the late Fr John Macken SJ.

Jimmy McDonogh's later career with Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club is detailed in *Gonzaga at Sixty*



Junior Cup winners 1979

Again, the photo has been left uncaptioned, but to front right is one of the family of Blakes (Richard? Michael?) who made a fine contribution to Gonzaga tennis.

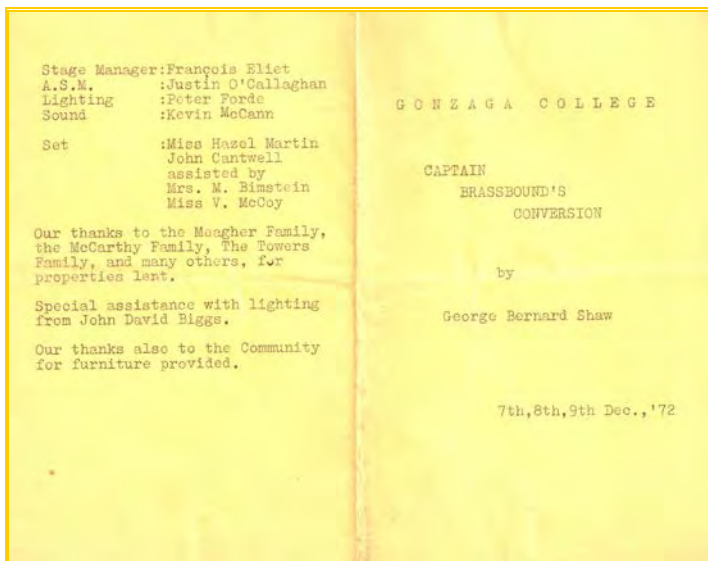
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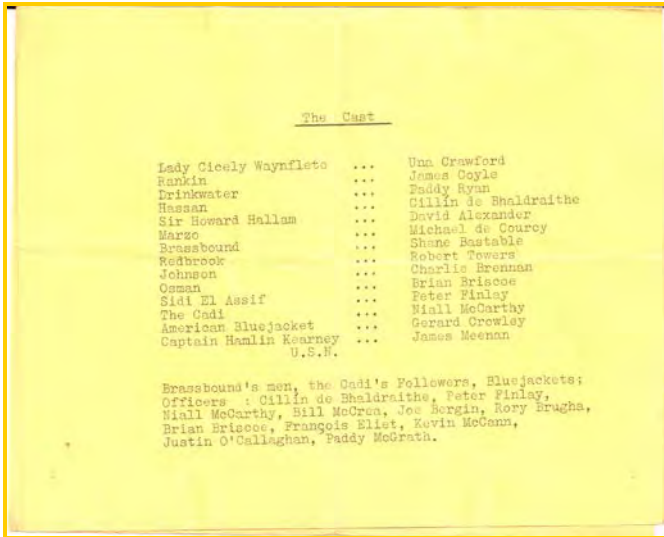
Drama in the `Seventies

If chess took off in the `seventies, so too, most certainly, did drama. There follows a collection of programme details and photos, where available.

1971 'The Lark' – Jean Anouilh
Directed by Jim O'Malley, Dept. of English, UCD. No programme or cast details available

1972 'Captain Brassbound's Conversion' – George Bernard Shaw





1973 ‘Six Characters in Search of an Author’ -
 Luigi Pirandello Directed by Jim O’Malley.
 No details available

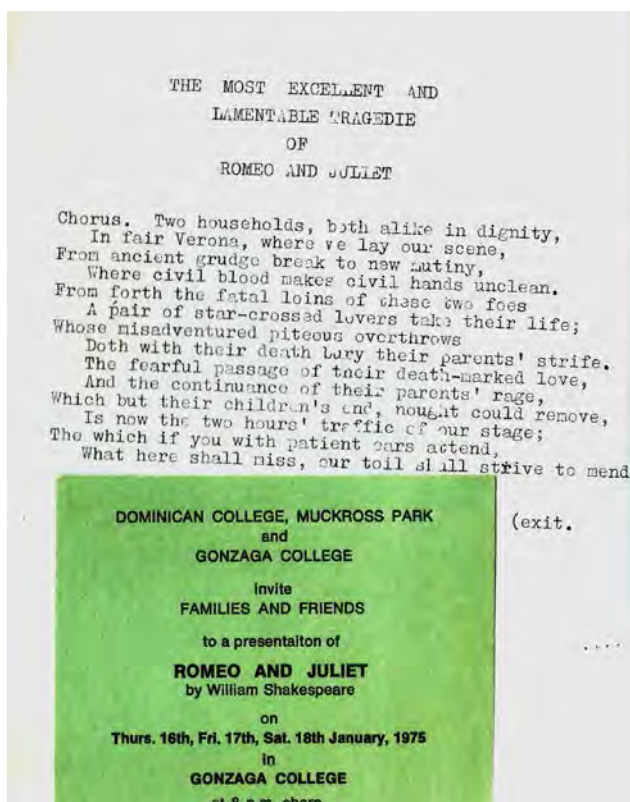
1974 ‘Romeo and Juliet’ – William Shakespeare

At the time of this production, the violent atrocities in Northern Ireland were at their height and Dublin and Monaghan had experienced the carnage of 17th May 1974.

In keeping with the purpose of Sixth Year drama – to broaden the understanding of human experience – the play was chosen as an illustration of the frightful results of unresolved and senseless conflict.

Representative costuming was a key feature of the production; the entire cast, with the exception

of Romeo and Juliet, wore simple black; Montagues and Capulets were distinguished by a green or an orange sash. The music was that of Sean O’Riada as played by the Chieftains. As the bodies of the protagonists were carried from the stage, the cast removed their sashes, dropping them to mingle in a pile on the steps in front of the audience.



'A plague o' both your houses!'

Mercutio, Act III. sc.i

THE CAST

Escalus, Prince of Verona	Peter Dudley
Paris, a young count, kinsman to the Prince	Jerry Sheehan
Montague	Richard Holland
Capulet	James Fitzpatrick
Old Capulet	Louise McDowell
Romeo, son to Montague	John Kearney
Mercutio, kinsman to Prince, friend to Romeo	Seán O'Donnell
Benvolio, nephew to Montague	Éan Miller
Tybalt, nephew to Lady Capulet	Darrach Connolly
Peter Lawrence	Bill Quirke
Peter John	John Redmond
Balthazar, servant to Romeo	David Mulcahy
Nurse, servant to Juliet's nurse	Declan Hayes
An Apothecary	Louise McDowell
Lady Montague	Arlotte Ryan
Lady Capulet	Miriam Farrell
Juliet, daughter to Lady Capulet	Carroll O'Donovan
Nurse to Juliet	Deirdre O'Looghraire
Rosaline	Jackie Moore

Citizens of Verona, members of both houses, guards, w. school, servants, etc.

Mary-Jane Rooney, Geraldine McHugh, Suzanne Miller, Aileen Sheehy, Kathy Ann, Valerie Ryan, Collette Gail, Nigel Ruddy, David D'Alton, Gerry Earley, Michael Finnegan, Roberto Bascor, Charles Noonan, Dermot Roden, Larry St. John, David Viani.

The Scene: Verona, Mantua
 or where the imagination, the music, and the colours lead you.

PRODUCTION

Stage Manager	Maurice Crowley
Lighting	Ernan O'Cleirigh, Richard Flinn
Set executed by	Peter Dudley, Jim Fitzpatrick
Costumes	Deirdre O'Looghraire
Music	Richard Holland
Drums	David Mulcahy
Directed by	Michael Boyan, Una Crawford

There will be one interval of fifteen minutes. Each half lasts approximately 67 minutes.

1975 'Murder in the Cathedral' – T.S.Eliot

The first of three college productions to be held in the chapel. A programme note explained the rationale:-

A significant aspect of Eliot's later writing is his concern with bringing about spiritual reawakening in his audiences and readers. Do we accept Thomas' death as a martyrdom, and as a reflection of the saving sacrifice of Calvary? Or do we, with the Knights, view him as "Insolent madman", pass a verdict of "suicide while of unsound mind."

Eliot is not concerned with presenting a chronicle of events, distanced from the audience by the barrier of a proscenium stage. The play demands that the audience feel a sense of ambivalence in their being located in a church; the form of the play recalls the Mass itself just as we may attend the Mass as unconscious spectators, so the Knights tempt us to reject Thomas as merely "this man who played a certain part in History."

- o o o -
"Your Lordship is too proud" 1st Tempter
- o o o -
"If you have arrived at a just subordination of the pretensions of the Church to the welfare of the state, remember that it is we who took the first step." 2nd Knight
- o o o -
"I know what yet remains to show you of my history
May seem to most of you at best futility
Senseless self-slaughter of a lunatic
Arrogant passion of a fanatic." Thomas.
- o o o -
"A Martyrdom is never the design of man; for the true martyr is he who has become the instrument of God, who has lost his will in the Will of God, and who no longer desires anything for himself, not even the glory of being a martyr". Thomas.

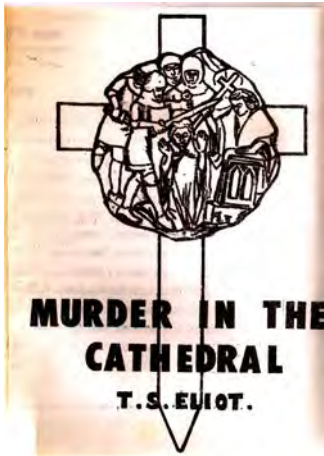
Most memorable in this production was the extraordinarily powerful performance of **Kevin Lynch ('76)** as Archbishop Thomas Becket.

The success of the location – stage/chapel, audience/congregation, just as Eliot intended it – was evident in the number among the audience who blessed themselves at the conclusion of Thomas's Christmas sermon.



An anguished Thomas (Kevin Lynch) confronts the torment of indecision:

*'The last temptation is the greatest treason:
To do the right deed for the wrong reason.'*



*'Unbar the door! Unbar
the door!
I will not have the house
of God, the sanctuary
Turned into a fortress!'*

The priests, Justin Geoghegan, David Jordan and



Denis Bergin seek to have Thomas lock the cathedral
doors against the approaching Knights

MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL

T. S. BLOTT.

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL BEVAN, ASSISTED BY SISTER PATRICK

WAGA / MURKROSS PRODUCTION.

DRAMATISTS PERSONNEL.

1st PRIEST DAVID JORDAN.
 2nd PRIEST DENIS MURPHY.
 3rd PRIEST JUSTIN GROSSHEAN.
 MESSENGER NICHOLAS BUTTON.
 THOMAS KEVIN LONCH.
 1st TEMPTER / KNIGHT MIALL MCGILLICUISH.
 2nd TEMPTER / KNIGHT GABRIEL KENNY.
 3rd TEMPTER / KNIGHT MICHAEL O'CONNELL.
 4th TEMPTER / KNIGHT RICHARD TINSLEY.

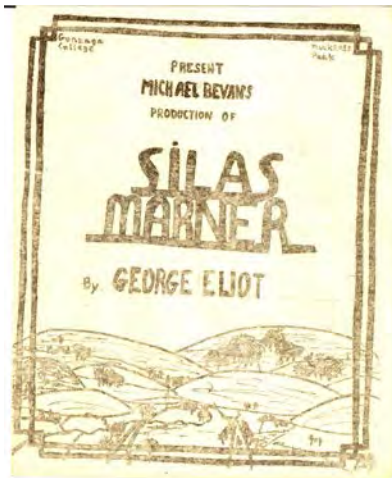
CHORUS: GERALDINE BANKS, ALICE FAHNNAN, CARMEL FITZPATRICK, ANNE GAFFRY, MARY HARDYCK, SHELACH KEMLEY, JONA MARTIN,
 RUTH MCGARTTOLL, EVA MCGLONSY, ANN MARIE MURPHY, PATRICIA MURPHY, PHILomena NI FLEAHADHAIDH, ROSNA O'LOUGHLIN,
 MAUREAD O'RIORDAN, HELENIC ROYAN, MAURE STANTON, STIMPHE THORNS, ORMAIDRE WALEN, MARY WOODLEY.

ATTENDANTS: EDWARD McTARRON, JOHN O'CONNELL, MICHAEL McKEOWN, JOHN NEWMAN.

STAGE MANAGER PAUL KEARNEY.
 LIGHTING RICHARD FLYNN, GREGORY FORGUE.
 SOUND ENGINEER FRANK WALSH.
 STAGE EFFECTS DARACH O'CONNELL.

1976 'Silas Marner' – a dramatisation of the novel by George Eliot.

'Silas Marner', or, perhaps, the nightmare of the muslin curtain and the polystyrene cottage.





Whatever the problems engendered by the director's insistence on the use of a muslin curtain to allow instant masking of Marner's humble cottage, they did not inhibit the career of **Maurice Byrne** ('78) who has made a successful career in acting.

SILAS

C A S T

Narrator		Kieran O'Carroll
Silas Marner	At Lantern Yard	Maurice Byrne
Minister		Barra de Bhaldraithe
William Dane		Simon Meagher
Sarah	At Romeloe, The Villagers	Muireann Toibin
Mr Macey		Julian Dillon
Mr Tookey		Barra de Bhaldraithe
Mr Lundy		Simon Meagher
Mr Winthrop		Padraig Kenny
Mr Dowlas		Philip Crowley
Jon Rodney		Hugh Munro
Landlord		Gerry Whelan
Dolly Winthrop		Michelle Monaghan
Aaron		Roger Hill
Eppie		Orla Tierney
Molly		Eileen Counihan
Village Boys	Hugh Munro/Peter Mooney	
Young Aaron		Nicholas Dillon
Young Eppie		Brona Winston
	The Gentry	
Squire Cass		Conor Sheehan
Codfrey Cass		Feichin McDonagh
Dunston Cass		Roger Hill
Nancy Lammeter		Catherine Gorman
Frisacilla Lammeter		Jane Burbridge
Aunt Osgood		Grainne Morris
Misses Gunns	Aideen Naughton/Clodagh Lynam	
Dr Kimble		Michael Lavelle
Mrs Kimble		Catherine Winston
Rector		Philip Crowley
Mrs Crookenthorp		Una Hearty
Mrs Guiliminded		Helen O'Donovan
Maid		Anne McAllister
Solomon		Peter Mooney

The Stage scr
C Michae

Rehearsal pics from 'Marner', courtesy of **Feichin McDonagh**, Godfrey Cass.



Padraig Kenny and the women of Raveloe.

Conor Sheehan as Squire Cass



Julian Plunkett-
Dillon as Mr
Macey

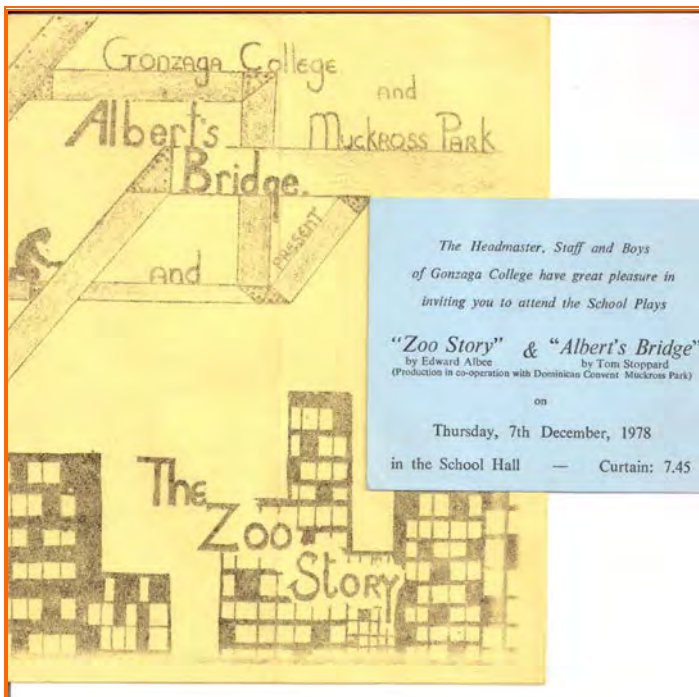


The director with costumes mistress Anne McAllister



The cast in rehearsal.

1978 'Albert's Bridge' – Tom Stoppard
'The Zoo Story' – Edward Albee



For the first time, a double bill.

ALBERT'S BRIDGE	
by	
TOM STOPPARD	
.....	
C A S T	
.....	
Albert	Tom Cunningham
Kate	Maria McGrath - Friday/Saturday Niamh Cooper - Thursday
Mother	Miriam Kingston
Father	John Murray Hayden
Pitch	Bobby Davys
Frazer	Brian Cragan
Chairman	Peter Cullen
George	Eoin McCullough
Dave	David O'Brien
Bob	Brian Bolger
Dad	Seber O'Farrell
Charlie	Philip Kenny

The cast of
'Albert's
Bridge'

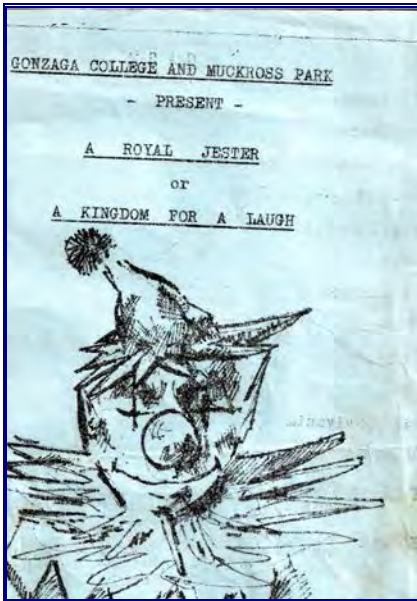
THE ZOO STORY	
by	
EDWARD ALBEE	
.....	
C A S T	
.....	
Jerry	Tiarnán Ó'Cléirigh
Peter	Barry O'Malpin
Stage Manager	Donal Macdougal'd
Production Manager	Denis Ryan
Lighting	Donal de Faor
Props	Philip Kenny
Stage Crew	Denis Ryan Garath Kyne Donal Macdougal'd
Scene	Central Park New York
	circa 1959

The cast of
'The Zoo Story'

The Gonzaga Operas

In 1975, Gerry Murphy wrote and composed the first of his cycle of five operas which was to receive an unbroken run of performances until the composer's retirement thirty years later. Without question, there is not a single Gonzaga graduate from an entire generation in whose head the melodies of these operas, and the names Alpha Chemicals, Warbeck, Alfred Simple, Sir Fiendish Cadd . . . are firmly embedded.

In 1974, however, Gerry directed someone else's work – *The Pride of the Regiment*, and in 1975 the operetta whose programme appears below:

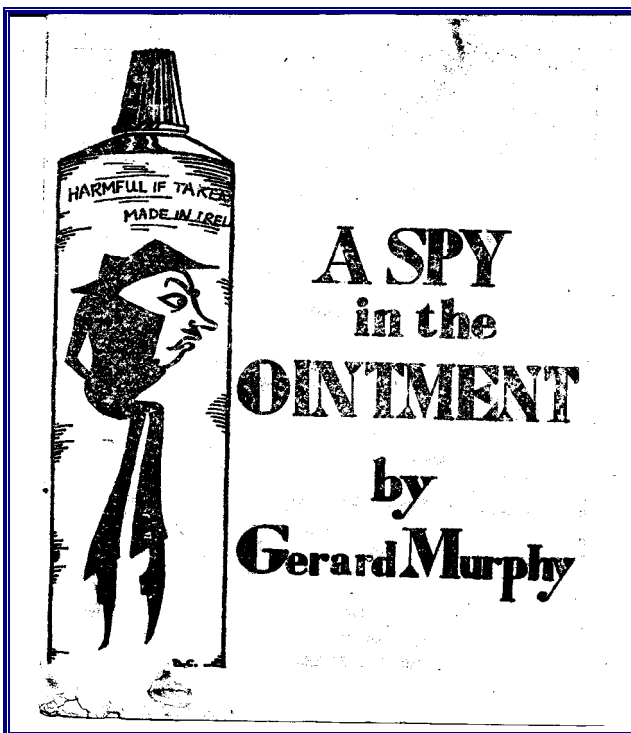


with the following cast:-

<u>C A S T</u>	
King Ortenais	Hugh Browne
Queen Titania	Tina Little
The Lord Chamberlain	John Carroll
The Lord High Executioner	Gerard Whelan
The Royal Jester	Justin McKenna
An Usher	Rupert Dowling
The Chancellor of the Exchequer	John Beale
The Commander of the Army	Fergus Bolger
The Commander of the Navy	James Eaten
Pauc	Douglas Vesic
Princess Sylvania	Sarah Hanson
The Court Astrologer	Kevin Wren
<u>Guards:</u> Kieran O'Reilly Anselm Griffin Anthony McRedmond Paul Mesinger	
<u>Courtiers:</u> Brian Baggoy Colman Cuddy Colman O'Higgins Larry Cuffe Maurice Bergin Mark Bergin Hugh Malachy Seamus Doyle-Kelly Timothy Carton	
<u>Various Chorus:</u>	
M. Lewis G. Clarke N. Blake J. Kinney D. Hurley P. Mearns R. Keelan P. O'Brien J. Cassidy T. Ryan J. McGovern D. McDermott N. Doolan C. O'Garraigh E. McMillough P. Bolger J. O'Grady S. Walker S. Hayes S. Whelan J. Breslin F. O'Donoghue J. McCann R. McQuinn	

The production team included, among others, Mr Coilín Murray, a teacher of art who succeeded Hazel Martin for a time until the arrival of Darragh O'Connell, whose extraordinarily creative settings adorned well over fifty productions on the old Gonzaga stage.

The first of the Gonzaga operas was produced in January, 1976. The keynote humour that would recur in all the titles was struck at once: 'A Spy in the Ointment'.



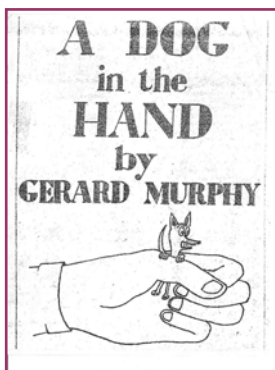
A tale of our times – commercial rivalry and industrial espionage – it had the ingredients standard to comedy: the villain whom one is invited to hiss; the arrogant spy who is convinced of his own supreme cleverness and his infallible attractiveness to women; the eccentric inventor; and, of course, the young couple whose path to romantic happiness is obstructed by the barriers of class difference, until the young man becomes the hero of the hour and his true birthright is revealed. It was also our first taste of the composer's gifted musical variety – from anthems to a love duet that remained just as touching when heard thirty years later.

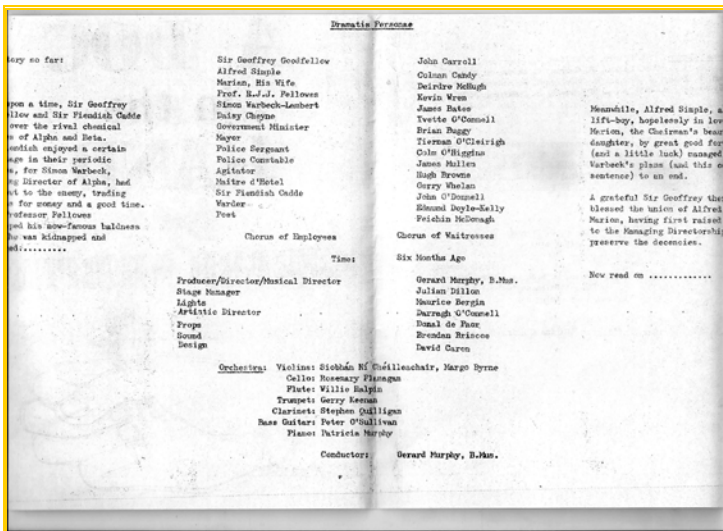
The cast was as follows:-

A SPY IN THE OINTMENT		
DENZAGA / MUCKROSS PRODUCTION		BY GERARD MURPHY
DRAMATIS PERSONAE		
SIR GEOFFREY GOODFELLOW - CHAIRMAN OF ALPHA CHEMICALS	.....	NIALL McCULLOUGH
MARION - HIS DAUGHTER	.....	SHELAGH KELLY
SIMON WARECKE - MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ALPHA CHEMICALS	.....	PETER McMAHON
SIR FIEDRISH CADDE - CHAIRMAN OF BETA CHEMICALS	.....	DERMOT KENNY
SECRETARY - ALPHA CHEMICALS	.....	JOHN HALE
TREASURER - ALPHA CHEMICALS	.....	JAMES DATES
PROF. P.J.J. FELLOWES - SENIOR RESEARCH CHEMIST ALPHA	.....	JUSTIN CROGHGAN
ALFRED SIMPLE - LIPT BOY ALPHA CHEMICALS	.....	KEVIN LYNCH
SERGEANT	.....	FERGUS BOLGER
POLICE CONSTABLE	.....	COLM O'HIGGINS
SECRETARY	.....	RUTH McCARROLL
ORCHESTRA:	Viols: SIOBHAN NI CHEILLIGHAIR ERIC GRANT	Cello: SEOSAMH Ó DUILL
	Cl: GIBBELLÁ DONOGHUE Trpt: GERRY KEENAN	Bass Guitar: DAVID ADREW
		Pi: WILKIE WALDIN
		Piano: HUGH SINNET
CONDUCTED BY		GERARD MURPHY B.MUS.
PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY		GERARD MURPHY
STAGE MANAGER		NICHOLAS SUTTON
LIGHTING		RICHARD FLINN
DESIGNED BY		D. CANON, J. FIDDKETT-DILL
STAGE PROPERTIES		C. SHEEHAN, D. ROLAN
THE TIME OF THE OPERA IS ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO		

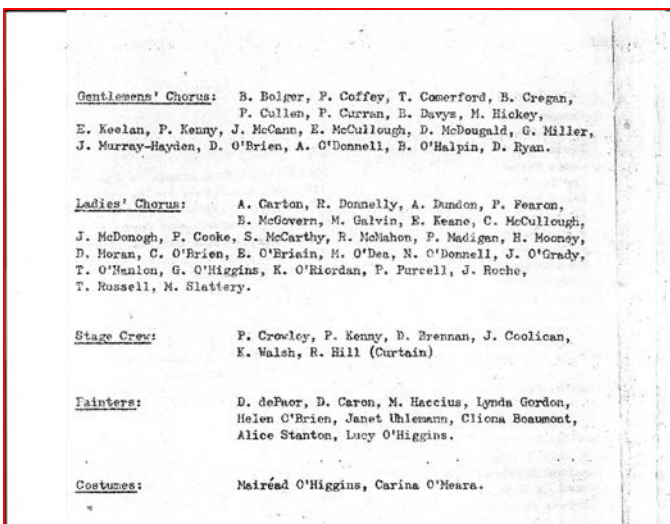
The remaining four operas in the cycle followed in the four succeeding years:-

'A Dog in the Hand', January 1977





Cast of the first production, above and below





Cormac O Cuilleain (*left*), who lead the orchestra throughout the thirty-year cycle, and (*below*) Patricia Murphy, wife of the composer and frequently pianist in the opera orchestra.



The third in the cycle, *'Aghast at the Wedding'*, was first performed in January 1978.



This opera repeated another of the characters made particularly memorable by their signature songs – the headwaiter and his musical account of the menu ‘Saltimbocca alla Romana . . .’; a reflection of the composer’s delight in and encyclopaedic knowledge of the food of the countries he loves, certainly, but also typical of even classical opera’s delight in treating, almost absurdly, in ‘lists’: Mozart’s Don Juan’s catalogue of his victims, for example. In *'Double Check'*, which followed in 1979, a collection of unpronounceable Russian names describes the rail itinerary to the fictitious Anastasia, and the moves of a chess game are memorably set to music.

In both operas, the part of the headwaiter was played by Gerry Whelan (1978), memorable as much for his Cleese-like length of leg as for his vocal prowess.

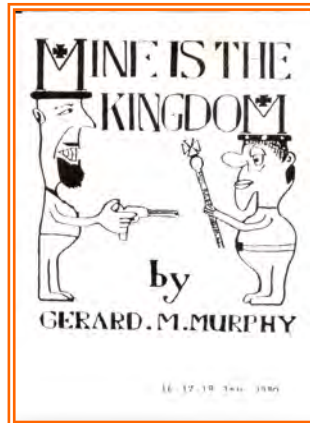
One of the songs that every Fifth Year opera hopeful longed to sing, guaranteed an encore as it was, occurs in the fourth opera, *'Double Check'* (January 1979). Written six years after American Bobby Fischer sensationally ended Russian dominance of the World Chess Championship by beating Boris Spassky, it entertains the delightful fantasy that major international conflict might be decided over the chess board – each side providing a single champion, in David-and-Goliath style, to avert the carnage of thousands. The first to perform the axe song of the woodcutter Bela and the axe salesman Tibor were Peter Cullen and Colm O’Loughlin.



The programme cover (above) has the wrong date inscribed – for 1978, read 1979

DRAMATIC PERSONNEL		CREDITS	
THE DRAMATISTS			
Julian, King, ruler of Amantia	E. McLaughlin	Produced and Directed by	Gerard M. Murphy
Deia, a poor woodcutter	P. O'Brien	Set/Design	Harrold O'Connell
James, his son	T. O'Driscoll	Stage Manager	G. Ryan
Agnes Murphy, an old village	P. Judge	Lighting	F. Donohue
Katherine, a waitress	Marion Morris	Stage Crew	P. Murphy
Henry, a soldier	B. de Vere		M. O'Brien and
Henry, a soldier	G. O'Mahony		M. O'Brien
Alida de Camp	J. Murray-Morris		
Master of Ceremonies	B. O'Brien	Traps	B. Barker, G. O'Mahony
			T. Judge
THE ACTORS			
President, Chairman, President of the Supreme Council	B. O'Mahony	TECHNICAL	
Vladoff, Deputy Vice-President	M. Ryan	Leader	Conrad O'Callaghan
Vladoucky, Member P.C.S.C.	J. O'Brien	Violins	Annals Murray
Dr. Deaneville, Professor of Psychology, University of Ireland	M. O'Mahony	Celli	Andrew O'Reilly
A. Kavanagh, Grandmaster	P. Ryan	Flute	Una Lennon
Klimov, Colonel and P.M. Ambassador	M. McDonough and J. Archer	Clarinets	Frank Murray
		Trumpet	Derek Brennan
		Drum	Mary Brennan
		Music	Patricia Murphy
MUSICAL			
Many Numbers, Arranged, Music	J. Appleby	Conductor	Gerard M. Murphy B.M.
The Line of the Drama is the Drama.			
Copyright © Gerard M. Murphy 1970			

The cycle ends with the tale of a collapsing economy under an impotent ruler, desperate to establish its rights to a mineral-rich territory.



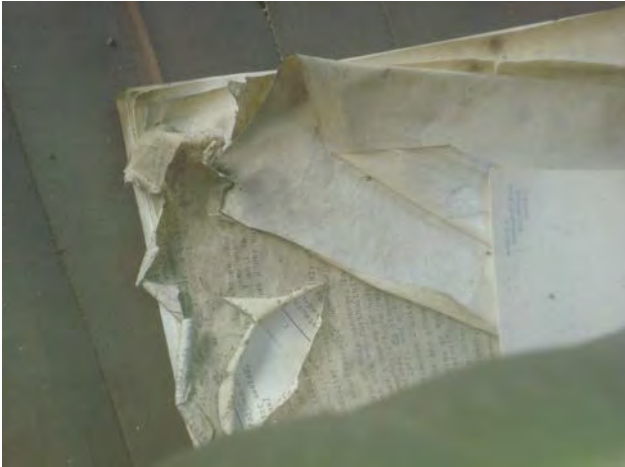
The cast appears below:-

WEDDING		Production	
Merrill Patterson		Production	
Bill Murray, King of Nevada	H. Newman	Produced and directed by	Gerard W. Murphy
Queen Matilda, his wife	Sharon Nelson	Art direction	Gerard W. Murphy
King David, King of Braganza	C. O'Leary	Stage Manager	Karen Ryan
Colonel Rogers, Director of Intelligence	P. O'Sullivan	Lighting	Clara O'Connell
Major, Major General, Major, Major etc.	F. Donnelly	Stage Crew	J. O'Connell, A. Bann, P. Byrne, M. O'Connell, S. O'Connell, W. Palmer, A. Murphy, M. O'Connell, A. Calla
Major General, Major General, Major General etc.	P. O'Sullivan	Prize	F. Gallagher
Major General, Major General, Major General etc.	J. Appleby		
Major General, Major General, Major General etc.	Anna Richardson		
Major General, Major General, Major General etc.	D. Doyle		
Major General, Major General, Major General etc.	D. Bolton		
Major General, Major General, Major General etc.	H. O'Toole	Orchestra	
Major General, Major General, Major General etc.	Patricia Giffey		
Major General, Major General, Major General etc.	D. O'Boyle		
Major General, Major General, Major General etc.	Wendy Murray	Leader	Carole O'Callaghan
Major General, Major General, Major General etc.	J. Murray	Violins	Annika O'Connell, Helen O'Connell
Major General, Major General, Major General etc.	M. O'Connell	Cello	Don Keenan
Major General, Major General, Major General etc.	J. O'Sullivan	Flute	Ingrid O'Connell
Major General, Major General, Major General etc.	H. O'Leary and H. O'Leary	Clarinet	Derek O'Connell
Major General, Major General, Major General etc.	J. O'Sullivan	Trumpet	Gary Keenan
Major General, Major General, Major General etc.	J. O'Sullivan	Piano	Patricia O'Connell
Major General, Major General, Major General etc.	J. O'Sullivan	Conductor	Gerard W. Murphy & Son

It has been remarked above that almost any subject can become the theme of an operatic aria – Joseph Haydn delighted in finally managing to include one in praise of his own industry (Die Jahreszeiten; Der Sommer: ‘O Fleiß’). In *Aghast at the Wedding* the restaurant pianist Max Delamare (Roger Hill) sings a eulogy to his (fictive) Austin Bentley 1939. An echo, perhaps, of the composer’s joy in his own Wolseley 1500 which was put out to grass (literally) in front of the Murphy family residence, where it remained until it had to be removed, piecemeal, in 2015.



Mock not the hunters-after-explanations to the work of the artist! For as long as the car sat subsiding onto its wheel-rims, there could be seen on the back seat the fading typescript of a Murphy opera: *Aghast at the Wedding*.



--oOo--