AccessionIndex: TCD-SCSS-V.20160929.001
Accession Date: 29-Sep-2016
Accession By: Dr.Brian Coghlan
Object name: Nine interviews of Prof.J.G.Byrne, TCD
Vintage: c.2012
Synopsis: O'Keefe, Maurice & Jane, 'Irish Life and Lore, Trinity College Dublin, John Byrne', CD no.55, 68:50 mins, MPEG 160kbps.

Description:
In May-2016 Prof.Barbara Wright found a 1-page list of what was covered in a set of recorded interviews "Track 1-9" (see Fig.1) of Prof.J.G.Byrne (sometimes called the father of computer science in Ireland, who sadly had passed away shortly beforehand), but neither she nor others had these or knew who recorded them and why. Despite a fairly intensive search no-one was found who knew anything about these interviews.

An appeal was launched both by email and via this catalog to try to find the set of recordings, or at least to try to find someone who might know who recorded the interviews, as they would be of great value to the School of Computer Science and Statistics, TCD, where an effort was underway to compose a book about Prof.Byrne, and the interviews would be extremely helpful.

On 18-Sep-2016 these mysterious recordings were found, thanks to Prof.Byrne's nephew Edmund Williams, Rosemary Welsh and Chris Horn. The recordings are in Maurice & Jane O'Keefe's collection *Irish Life and Lore*, see [1] and [2]. They are available on a CD and/or electronic file, and copies of both have been deposited in this collection and in the associated folder in this collection.

The full set of the *Irish Life and Lore* interview series is also in the TCD Library [3], including the *Trinity College Dublin Collection* [4] of interviews of TCD staff, also see list in Fig.3. Some other *Irish Life and Lore* collections also include TCD staff, e.g. Roderick Kernan in the *South Dublin Collection* [5], Mary Boydell in the *Fleischmann Collection* [6], Valentine Rice in the *Kerry Collections* [7], and Roy Johnston in the *RDS Collection* [8].

The homepage for this catalog is at: https://www.scss.tcd.ie/SCSSTreasuresCatalog/
Click *'Accession Index'* (1st column listed) for related folder, or *'About'* for further
guidance. Some of the items below may be more properly part of other categories of
this catalog, but are listed here for convenience.

Accession Index	Object with Identification
TCD-SCSS-V.20160929.001	O'Keefe, Maurice & Jane, Nine interviews of Prof.John Byrne, 'Irish Life and Lore, Trinity College Dublin, John Byrne', CD no.55, 68:50 mins, MPEG 160kbps, 2012.

References:

1. O'Keefe, Maurice & Jane, 'Irish Life and Lore, Trinity College Dublin, John Byrne', see:
   http://www.irishlifeandlore.com/search-result.php?PageNum=2&DbQuery_TotalRows=23&s=byrne
   Last browsed to on 29-Sep-2016.

2. O'Keefe, Maurice & Jane, 'Irish Life and Lore', see:
   http://www.irishlifeandlore.com/
   Last browsed to on 29-Sep-2016.

3. O'Keefe, Maurice & Jane, 'Irish Life and Lore' interview series,
   Trinity College Dublin Library, see:
   http://stella.catalogue.tcd.ie/iii/encore/plus/C__S%28irish%20life%20%26%20lore%29%20%28collection%29%20%28compiled%29%20f%3Ai%20l%3Aeng__Orightresult__U?lang=eng&suite=cobalt
   Last browsed to on 29-Sep-2016.

4. O'Keefe, Maurice & Jane, 'Irish Life and Lore, Trinity College Dublin Collection', see:
   http://www.irishlifeandlore.com/search-result.php?dbc=collectionName&collectionName=Trinity%20College,%20Dublin,%20Collection
   Last browsed to on 29-Sep-2016.

5. O'Keefe, Maurice & Jane, 'Irish Life and Lore, South Dublin Collection'
   [Roderick Kernan], see:
   http://www.irishlifeandlore.com/search-result.php?s=Roderick+Kernan
   Last browsed to on 29-Sep-2016.

6. O'Keefe, Maurice & Jane, 'Irish Life and Lore, Fleischmann Collection'
   [Mary Boydell], see:
   http://www.irishlifeandlore.com/search-result.php?s=Mary+Boydell
   Last browsed to on 29-Sep-2016.

7. O'Keefe, Maurice & Jane, 'Irish Life and Lore, Kerry Collections'
   [Valentine Rice], see:
   http://www.irishlifeandlore.com/search-result.php?s=Valentine+Rice
   Last browsed to on 29-Sep-2016.

8. O'Keefe, Maurice & Jane, 'Irish Life and Lore, RDS Collection', [Roy Johnston], see:
   http://www.irishlifeandlore.com/search-result.php?s=Roy+H.+W.+Johnston
   Last browsed to on 29-Sep-2016.

John Byrne *b.* **1933**

Track 1: Background, growing up in Dublin (Rathfarnham), his early education and later entry to Trinity College Dublin in 1952 as an undergraduate, studying French and Classics, prior to beginning his engineering studies. Pays special tribute to his mentor Victor Graham in this regard. Being a Roman Catholic, a dispensation from the Church was required in order for him to take up his place at Trinity.

Track 2: Graduating in Civil Engineering, working in Birmingham for an engineering firm at that time constructing the Hogan Stand for Croke Park.
On returning to Dublin, employment with Dublin Corporation for three months, before enrolling for a Diploma in Concrete Technology at Imperial College, London.

Track 3: 1957 – Enrolled for a Ph.D. in Trinity College – in summer of 1958, spent three months with English Electric in Stafford, using the DEUCE (Digital Electronic Universal Computing Engine) computer.

Track 4: Having graduated with a Ph.D., was awarded an ICI Fellowship and was appointed lecturer in Trinity College. His memories of that time, particularly the IBM 1620 computer acquired by the Engineering School. The educational programmes on offer to students in his Department.

Track 5: In 1968, the focus on the need to upgrade the computing system and an anecdote about the location of the computer – the IBM 360/44 mainframe – the size of which dictated its installation in a hut beside the Berkeley library.

Track 6: Summary of his professional career to 1973, when he was elected to a Chair of Computer Science at Trinity College.

Track 7: The 1980s and the relocation of his department to Pearse St and subsequently to the O'Reilly Institute.

Track 8: Discusses the decision to confer academic awards on Dublin Institute of Technology students through Trinity College.

Track 9: The highs and lows of his professional life, and the digitization of the printed TCD Library catalogue (1872), of over 5,000 pages.

Figure 1: Interviews of Prof.John Byrne, list of what was covered in a set of recordings "Track 1-9", courtesy Prof.Barbara Wright, TCD

Figure 2: Interviews of Prof.John Byrne, CD no.55

Aidan Clarke
Aidan Heavey
Andrew Mayes
Anne Marie Diffley
Aoileann nic Gearailt
Barbara Wright née Robinson
Brendan Kennelly
Brian McMurry
Cathal Ó Háinle
Charles Benson
Charles Hepwholl Holland
Charles Webb
Corinna Lonergan née Salvadori
Corinne Harrison née Dennison
Daphne Gill
David Hackett
David McConnell
David Mulhall
David Simms
David Spearman
David Thomas
Dermot Hourihan
Dermot McAleese
Dermot Montgomery
Dermot Sherlock
Desmond English
Desmond Tyndall
Diarmuid Shanley
Dick Loane
Dick Spring
Donald Weir
Eamonn McCarthy
Eda Sagarra née O'Shiel
Elizabeth Oldham
Eugene McGovern

Geraldine Watts
Ian Howie
James Lydon
Jane Grimson
Janet Moody
Jennifer Lyons née McAlister
Joe Revington
John Bristow
John Byrne
Joseph Haughton
Helen Haughton née Crookshank
Leslie Greer née Tyrrell
Louden Ryan
Lyndall Luce
Marcus Webb
Mary Robinson
Melissa Webb
Muriel McCarthy
Nial Osborough
Pat Hartigan
Peter Boyle
Peter Gatenby
Rita O'Mahony
Robert McCarthy
Roger Stalley
Salters Sterling
Susan Parkes
Terence Brown
Thomas Mitchell
Trevor West
Veronica Morrow
Vivienne Darling
William Kennedy
William Vincent Denard

Figure 3: List of TCD staff interviewed for Irish Life and Lore, Trinity College Dublin Collection