

AccessionIndex: TCD-SCSS-V. 20190831.001

Accession Date: 31-Aug-2019

Accession By: Patricia Baker

Object name: Radio Documentary 'The Professor - Professor Byrne'

Vintage: 2018

Synopsis: Audio Documentary by Patricia Baker on the life of Professor John Gabriel Byrne.

**Description:**

This item is an audio recording of a radio documentary by Patricia Baker on the life and work of Professor John Gabriel Byrne, broadcast on Newstalk Radio 106-108 FM (Dublin) on Sunday 9 September at 7am and again at 9pm on Saturday 15 September 2018.

Listen to the documentary and related documents in the associated folder in this catalogue at:

<https://www.scss.tcd.ie/SCSSTreasuresCatalog/literature/TCD-SCSS-V.20190831.001/>

To view, click on the links.

Many thanks to Patricia Baker for donating this item, and to Curious Broadcast, 28 Inchicore Square South, CIE Works, Inchicore, Dublin 8, for permission to preserve a copy of the recording in this collection for posterity, and to publish it in this online catalogue.

The extended description below, again by Patricia Baker, describes documentary.

**'The Professor - Professor Byrne'**

**Additional notes on the podcast**

**Patricia Baker**

*The Professor*, made by independent radio documentary maker Patricia Baker, tells the story of a man many would consider to be the father of computing in Ireland, Professor John Byrne. *The Professor* explores the life and influence of a shy but brilliant Trinity College Dublin scholar with extraordinary vision, who was directly responsible for the success of the Irish Software sector.

From persuading college authorities to invest IR£10,000 in order buy one of Ireland's only computers in 1962 - which was so large its two crates needed to be hoisted by a crane from the back of a flatbed truck - to developing Ireland's first third level computer science department in the 1970s, he showed a vision and determination that lay the foundation for a software industry that today employs more than 24,000 people and generates €16 billion in exports. He lethis success shine through the people he worked with and the students he inspired, many of whom are now leading figures in computer engineering in Ireland. Yet no one outside the tech sector has ever heard of what his students called Prof Byrne. Who was he, and how did he do what he did?

Professor Sean Baker, co-founder and former Chief Scientific Officer of Iona Technologies sums up the role Prof Byrne had in the computer industry in Ireland. "If Prof Byrne hadn't been here, if he hadn't done what he did, we would without doubt

not have the same global position in the software industry that we actually have. Ireland is one of the major exporters of software in the World and is one of the major software development innovation hubs within Europe. If it hadn't been for Prof Byrne you have to ask yourself, what impact would it have had to our global positioning if we were late to the party, would we have been number 20, number 50, number 100 in the World? We would definitely not be in one of the top positions we are today without the contribution he made".

Told through the voices of his colleagues, friends, and family, Prof Byrne is remembered with much love and admiration. The central narrative of *The Professor* is the personal exchange of stories and reflections on the career and life of Professor John Gabriel Byrne; stories recounted by his close friends and colleagues, the men and women who worked beside him for his 60 plus years in Trinity College Dublin.

Professor John Gabriel Byrne died on 16th April, 2016.

*The Professor* chronicles the development of the computer industry in Ireland from the installation of the Country's first computers, and the sending of the first internet message in Ireland. With contributions from Chris Horn, Michael Nowlan, Dan McCarthy, Neville Harris, Jane Grimson, Mike Brady, John Sterne, Rosemary Welsh, Sean Baker and Maeve Williams (wife of Prof Byrne's cousin Edmund Williams), the documentary includes audio recording of Prof Byrne, courtesy of Maurice O'Keeffe's *Irish Life and Lore*.

*The Professor* is a Curious Broadcast production funded by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland with the television licence fee. Produced, narrated and edited by Patricia Baker, final mix Gerry Horan, Contact Studio, research by Sinead Baker. RTÉ audio clips courtesy of RTÉ Libraries and Archives. Interview with Professor John Byrne courtesy of *Irish Life and Lore*. *The Professor* first broadcast on Newstalk 106 – 108FM.

Many thanks to Patricia Baker for permission to republish the description above.

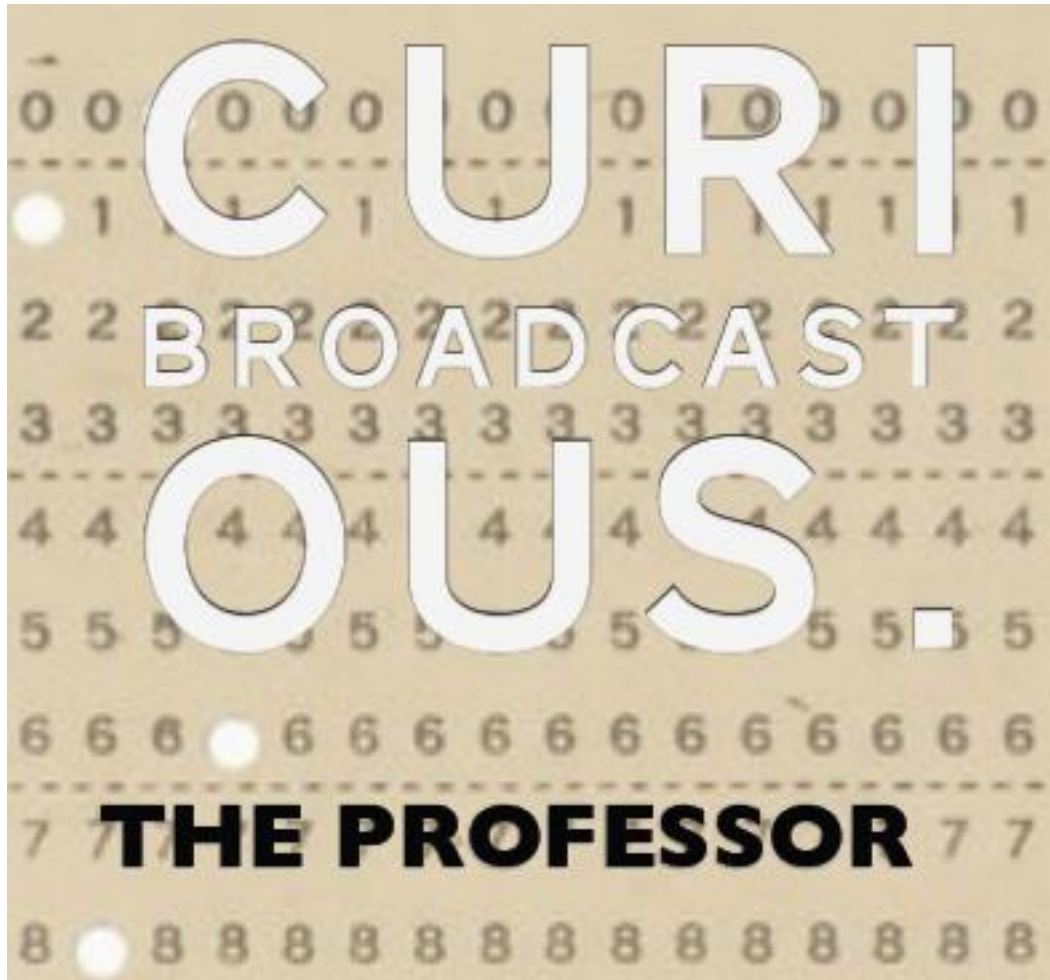
The homepage for this catalog is at: <https://www.scss.tcd.ie/SCSSTreasuresCatalog/>  
Click '*Accession Index*' (1st column listed) for related folder, or '*About*' for further guidance.  
Some of the items below may be more properly part of the other categories of this catalog, but listed here for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

Accession Index	Object with Identification
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-V.20190831.001</a>	Patricia Baker, Radio Documentary 'The Professor - Professor Byrne'. Audio Documentary by Patricia Baker on the life of Professor John Gabriel Byrne. Electronic audio file in MPEG-3 format on CD and online (Audio: 192kbps, 44kHz).
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-V.20180409.001</a>	Prof.Jane Grimson, Memorial Discourse on Prof.J.G.Byrne presented on Trinity Monday, 2018.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-V.20180312.001</a>	Memorium and Obituaries for Prof.J.G.Byrne, born: 25-Jul-1933, died: 16-Apr-2016, see: <a href="https://scss.tcd.ie/SCSSTreasuresCatalog/Prof-John-Gabriel-Byrne-1933-2016.pdf">https://scss.tcd.ie/SCSSTreasuresCatalog/Prof-John-Gabriel-Byrne-1933-2016.pdf</a>
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-V.20180312.002</a>	Portrait of Prof.John Gabriel Byrne, Trinity College Dublin, portrait by Atsushi Kaga, 2005
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-V.20160929.001</a>	Nine interviews of Prof.J.G.Byrne, TCD, O'Keefe, Maurice & Jane, 'Irish Life and Lore, Trinity College Dublin, John Byrne', CD no.55, 68:50 mins, MPEG 160kbps, c.2012.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-V.20171231.001</a>	Ed: Chris Horn, Professor John Byrne: Reminiscences: Father of Computing in Ireland, 2017. ISBN-10: 1520696841, ISBN-13: 978 1520696843.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-X.20180907.002</a>	Prof.J.G.Byrne, Computerisation of the TCD Library 1872 Printed Catalogue.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-V.20181005.003</a>	Student video presentation about Professor John Gabriel Byrne, 2018, literature: Video made by one team in the 2018 Junior Freshman class asked to make videos on the history of computing.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-X.20121208.007</a>	Richardson's Fantastic Forecast Factory. Painting of imaginary prediction factory, based on Ch.11 of Richardson's 'Weather Prediction by Numerical Process', ink and water colour, commissioned and owned by Prof.J.G.Byrne, painted by and Copyright of Stephen Conlin, 1986.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-T.20160323.001</a>	Networking and the Internet, Networking hardware and the arrival of the Internet in Ireland, c.1991.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-X.20121208.004</a>	History of the Department of Computer Science, Trinity College Dublin. The evolution of computer science as reflected in the long line of machines used by the department since its inception, c.1969
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-X.20121208.006</a>	Department of Statistics, Trinity College Dublin. The evolution of the Dept.Statistics as reflected in the machines used since its inception c.1968.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-X.20121208.005</a>	The Computer Laboratory, Trinity College Dublin. The evolution of Trinity College Dublin computing services as reflected in the long line of machines used by the Computer Lab since its inception c.1968.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-V.20180124.001</a>	Elizabeth Oldham, History of Computing Education in Irish Schools. Video of presentation to Computers in Education Society of Ireland (CESI) Computer Science Symposium, September 2017.

See the related documents in the associated folder in this catalog.

## References:

1. Patricia Baker, *Radio Documentary 'The Professor - Professor Byrne'*, Podcast by Patricia Baker on the life of Professor John Gabriel Byrne, see: <https://www.newstalk.com/podcasts/newstalk-documentaries/the-professor-documentary-on-newstalk>  
Last browsed to on 31-Aug-2019.



*Figure 1: 'The Professor - Professor Byrne'*  
*Audio Documentary by Patricia Baker on the life of Professor John Gabriel Byrne*  
*Official audio CD, front view*