

W.D. Jordan Rare Books and Special Collections Queen's University

Project Name: Printing the Irish Revival: The Dun Emer and Cuala Press Collections at Queen's University Library

Student Position: Curatorial Assistant

Hosted by: [W.D. Jordan Rare Books and Special Collections](#)

Supervised by: [Brendan Edwards](#), Curator of Rare Books and Special Collections / [Nicole Kapphahn](#), Teaching & Outreach Archivist/Librarian

Description: W.D. Jordan Rare Books and Special Collections at Queen's University Library holds a collection of publications by the Dun Emer Press and Cuala Press, private presses that played an important role in the Irish Literary Revival. Dun Emer Press was founded in 1902 by Elizabeth and Evelyn Yeats, sisters of the poet W.B. Yeats. In 1908, the press was reorganized as the Cuala Press, remaining under the management of the Yeats sisters and with W.B. Yeats serving as an important literary advisor and contributor. The presses published finely crafted limited editions of poetry, plays, and prose by leading Irish writers, including W.B. Yeats, as well as works on Irish folklore, history, and culture. The collection held by Queen's has a unique provenance; it was acquired from the Yeats family when Cuala Press ceased operations.

The Curatorial Assistant will be tasked with researching the history, output, and impact of the Dun Emer and Cuala presses, the provenance of the copies held at Queen's, and planning and writing a digital exhibition that highlights the collection. The digital exhibition will be created using Omeka.net and will involve the digitization and/or photography of selections from the Dun Emer and Cuala Press materials held at Queen's. A small physical exhibition may also be developed by the Curatorial Assistant, dependent on the condition of selected materials and workload considerations.

Requirement: The successful candidate should have some familiarity and/or interest in the history of Irish literature, private press printing, and the materiality of books. The candidate should also have basic desktop publishing skills, experience with digitization, and a willingness to learn how to use the Omeka.net platform.

This placement will be offered in person at W.D. Jordan Rare Books and Special Collections. The placement will have some remote components, but the student should expect to spend a significant amount of time onsite to get acquainted with the materials first-hand.