Historical Manuscripts Project

King’s Inns was awarded a generous grant by the Heritage Council, which enabled its archivist, Ms. Juliane Galle, to make a detailed list of the library’s 300 manuscripts and to carry out conservation measures in order to preserve them for the future. The aim of the project, part-funded by the Heritage Council and the King’s Inns, is to ensure the safekeeping of the manuscripts, physically and intellectually, and to make them available for researchers and historians as well as legal professionals and the general public.

The manuscripts, which date from the early 17th century to the 20th century, cover both legal and non-legal matters. The volumes contain, for example, copies of decrees in the Irish Court of Chancery (17th/18th century); a treatise on the practice in the ecclesiastical courts in Ireland (17th century ?); a record of a parliament held at Dublin 1613-1615; reports of Spring Assizes, Tralee (1787); Justice, later Lord Chancellor O’Hagan’s notes (1865-1881); a poem in memory of John, Lord Molesworth of Swords (18th century); a Collection of the Lives of the Catholic Archbishops of Cashel (19th century) and Dail Eireann papers (1919-1921).

While many of the legal manuscripts are primarily the domain of legal historians, the documents can also have considerable interest for social historians, local historians and those conducting genealogical research.

It is the Society’s hope that the project will ensure the preservation of the manuscripts. These interesting documents are now accessible to all those interested in exploring their contents.

To view list of the manuscripts click here