



The Historical
Society of
Pennsylvania

Collection 3092

W. Paul Loane
Papers

1960-2001 (bulk 1981-1994)
6 boxes, 2.1 lin. feet

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Processed by: Barbara Ryan

Processing Completed: July 2007

Restrictions: None

Related Collections at HSP: Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 65 records, 1822-1984 (MSS 113)
Dennis Clark papers, 1888-1982 (MSS 037, 177)
Irish Edition records, 1916-1991 (3049)
Robin O'Brien Hiteshew Collection (3059)
Scotch Irish Foundation Library and Archive Collection (3093)
Loyal Orange Institution. Washington Loyal Orange Lodge No. 43 Philadelphia, Pa. records, 1855-1986 (MSS 060)

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Abstract

W. Paul Loane is an intriguing character to whom many labels apply: native Philadelphian, Ulsterman, Protestant, Roman Catholic, and sommelier. During the 1980s, he fervently supported Loyalist causes in Northern Ireland, formed ties with paramilitary, political, and cultural groups and became the North American Representative for the Ulster Defense Association (UDA) and the Ulster Democratic Party (UDP). By the late 1990s, however, he had become a proponent of reconciliation with the Republic of Ireland, visiting Nationalist shrines in Northern Ireland and, eventually, converting to Roman Catholicism.

The collection documents many aspects of Loane's life, from his political and cultural interests to his professional expertise in the field of wine and spirits. It consists of pamphlets, notices and publications from Ulster-related societies and organizations. There are newspaper clippings, articles written by Loane, ephemera and correspondence. In addition, there are photographs and fifteen audio tapes.

Background note

Loane, whose full name is William Paul Coppinger Loane, was born in Philadelphia in the 1940s. His father, the Reverend William P. C. Loane, Sr., was an Episcopal clergyman and music scholar who had emigrated from County Antrim, Northern Ireland, to Philadelphia as a teenager. His mother, Florence Parker Loane, was a pianist trained at Oberlin Conservatory. Loane grew up in North Philadelphia and attended William Penn Charter School. He graduated from Great Valley High School in Paoli, Pennsylvania.

From 1965 through 1968, Loane served in the U. S. Army as a military policeman. While stationed in Germany, he was exposed to German wines and toured several vineyards. This sparked an interest in wines and an aspiration to become a wine expert. After his military service ended, Loane attended Peirce Junior College in Philadelphia and, later, Penn State University. He held various jobs before becoming the wine steward at The Greenhouse Restaurant in Radnor, Pennsylvania in 1976, a position he held for many years.

As an adult, Paul Loane frequently visited relatives in Northern Ireland and became active in the politics of the area during “The Troubles,” the period of violent political and ethnic conflict that began during the 1960s. He considered himself an Ulsterman and formed ties with Loyalist paramilitary and political organizations, most notably the UDA, a group that openly used violence to reject amalgamation with the Republic of Ireland, and its political arm, the UDP. By the 1980s, Loane was the North American Representative for both organizations. He was, in addition, active in the Loyal Orange Institution, the Somme Association, and many Ulster heritage groups.

Although many UDA members were known for their sectarianism, Loane sought to recast the conflict in Northern Ireland in purely political terms, and his writings on the topic are notable for their lack of anti-Catholic rhetoric. In 1995, he arranged to meet and shake hands with Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, the political arm of the Irish Republican Army. Eventually, Loane became convinced that reconciliation was the solution to the conflict, and he converted to Roman Catholicism. He continues to reside in the Philadelphia area.

Scope & content

The collection, which came to HSP in no discernable order, is arranged into three series and spans the years 1960 to 2001. The bulk of the materials range from 1983 to 1994 and reflect Loane’s involvement in the Loyalist politics and culture of Northern Ireland. It hints at the American support for Loyalist politics and provides a snapshot of Ulster-American life through correspondence and ephemera. The ephemera are particularly rich and varied, ranging from photographs of Loyalist murals in Belfast to Loyal Orange Institution tea towels and paintings done by imprisoned UDA members.

Series I (*Societies and Organizations*) focuses on the groups with which Loane was associated. These were primarily Loyalist organizations, although there is some material from churches, both Protestant and Roman Catholic, and a few items from Sinn Fein. The materials consist primarily of society publications such as journals, program books, and newsletters. Some folders, particularly those associated with the UDA, contain published essays and more varied ephemera, including calendars and receipts.

Series II (*Personal and Professional Materials*) includes Loane’s writings on wine and politics as well as his correspondence, which comprises eleven folders. There is also a taped interview that Loane did in 1993 with a Belfast, Northern Ireland radio station. There are, in addition, nine folders of newspapers and news clippings that Loane collected to document important events in Northern Ireland and two folders of photographs taken in the Philadelphia area and in Northern Ireland. Regrettably, there is little personal information other than Loane’s resume and some material concerning his parents.

Series III (*Loyalist Artifacts*) contains items collected by Loane, most reflecting Loyalist culture and politics. There is a collection of audio recordings as well as two paintings, a flag, and other items.

Overview of arrangement

Series I	Societies and Organizations, 1981-2001	21 folders
Series II	Personal and Professional Material, 1960-2001	31 folders, 1 audio tape
Series III	Loyalist Artifacts, 1968-1993	1 folder, 5 artifacts, 14 audio tapes

Series description

Series 1. Societies and Organizations, 1981-2001 (Boxes 1-2)

Most of the folders in this series contain information that would have been available to the general public or to any member of the organization, e.g., society publications, notices, and pamphlets. Even for organizations with which Loane seemed to be deeply involved, there is scant information concerning the organization's structure or operations, and nothing that details Loane's role within it. For the UDA, however, there are interesting ephemera, including receipts from visits to UDA prisoners, UDA calendars, and Christmas cards. There is also a published copy of, *This is It*, a play co-authored by Andy Tyrie, who was, from 1973 to 1988, the Supreme Commander of the UDA.

Loane was an active member of many societies for people of Ulster descent, such as the Loyal Orange Institution, the Somme Association, and the Scotch-Irish Society of the United States. After his conversion to Roman Catholicism, he became involved in societies such as the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Loane's interest in religion led him to attend many churches in the United States and Northern Ireland, and he saved programs from the services and parish newsletters.

Series 2. Personal and Professional Material, 1960-2001 (Boxes 2-4)

The *Personal and Professional Material* series contains correspondence, published articles, photographs, newspapers and clippings. Newspapers are housed in an oversize box.

The correspondence, consisting of letters written to Loane and photocopies of letters by him, is the heart of the series and centers on Loane's involvement in Ulster culture and politics. Most of the correspondents were living in Northern Ireland, and the letters to Loane are frequently informal in tone and depict daily life in Ulster. There are several from Andy Tyrie, as well as one from the Ulster Volunteer Force head, Gusty Spence. In addition, Loane corresponded with Ian Adamson, a member of the Belfast City Council, and with several imprisoned UDA members.

Loane was, by profession, a wine and spirits expert. He wrote articles for Philadelphia area newspapers and gave interviews to reporters from area magazines and television stations. Copies of his articles are included as well as clippings of articles for which he provided information.

Several notable images are included in the two folders of photographs: Loane shaking hands with Gerry Adams, a banner with the inscription, "The Orange Order & the Ku Klux Klan, Sharing their Heritage..." and snapshots of Loane with Andy Tyrrie. There are also numerous depictions of Loyalist murals in Belfast and of Loyal Orange parades in the Philadelphia area.

Most of the newspapers and clippings that Loane collected concern the troubles in Northern Ireland and come primarily from Irish newspapers in the Philadelphia area and from the Belfast *Telegraph*.

Series 3. Loyalist Artifacts, 1968-1993 (Boxes 4-6)

The *Loyalist Artifacts* series consists of audio material, two paintings, and several other items. The audio material in this series consists of Loyalist band music recorded in Northern Ireland. The fourteen cassette tapes of music all have overtly political titles such as, "Ulster says, 'No'" (a Loyalist slogan) and "Quis separabit," [Who shall separate us?] (the motto of the UDA).

In 1993, Loane was given two paintings painted by UDA members in Long Kesh prison in Northern Ireland. Both have Loyalist themes. A reproduction of one, painted by John Somerville on linen, is housed in Box 4 with the newspapers. The other, done in acrylics by Norman McClelland, is in Box 5 with other artifacts.

Separation report

To HSP Library:

Boyle, Kevin, and Hadden, Tom. *Ireland: A Positive Proposal*. Harmondsworth, England: Penguin Books, Ltd., 1985.

Cameron, Richard. *Self-Determination? The Question Ulster Must Answer*. London: Ameron Publications, n.d.

Hanna, Ronnie. *Land of the Free: Ulster and the American Revolution*. Lurgan, Co., Armagh: Ulster Society (Publications) Limited, 1992.
[E269.S3.H3x]

Hanna, Ronnie. *Never Call Retreat: The Life and Times of Ulysses S. Grant, Ulster-American Hero*. Lurgan, Co. Armagh: Ulster Society (Publications), 1991.
[E672.H26 1991]

Related materials

Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 65 records, 1822-1984 (MSS 113)
Dennis Clark papers, 1888-1982 (MSS 037, 177)
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Scotch Irish Foundation Library and Archive Collection (3093)
Loyal Orange Institution. Washington Loyal Orange Lodge No. 43 Philadelphia, Pa. records, 1855-1986 (MSS 060)

Bibliography

Bruce, Steve. *The Red Hand*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1992.

CAIN Web Service. *Conflict and Politics in Northern Ireland (1968 to the Present)*, <http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/> (accessed 19 June 2007).

Dixon, Paul. *Northern Ireland: The Politics of War and Peace*, <http://www.nipolitics.com/> (accessed 19 June 2007).

Somme Heritage Centre, <http://www.irishsoldier.org/> (accessed 19 June 2007).

Subjects

Irish American—Ethnic identity
Irish Americans—Pennsylvania—Philadelphia—Societies, etc.
Irish Americans—Pennsylvania—Philadelphia—Political activity
Irish Americans—Politics and government—20th century

Irish American Protestants
Philadelphia (Pa.)—Social life and customs
Political prisoners—Northern Ireland—Correspondence
Scots-Irish—Pennsylvania—Philadelphia
Wine writers—20th century

Loane, W. Paul
McClelland, Norman [Ulster Defense Association member]
Somerville, John
Tyrie, Andy

Friends of the Somme
Loyal Orange Institution
Ulster Defense Association
Ulster Democratic Party

Administrative Information

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Acquisition information

Gift of W. Paul Loane, 1991-2001

Accession numbers: 1991-001, 1994-022, 1995-005, 1995-053, 1996-049, 1997-015, 1998-030, 2000-021, 2001-036, 2001-039

Languages Represented

English, Ukrainian, Greek

The majority of the collection is in English. Several items pertaining to Ukrainian and Greek Orthodox churches are in Ukrainian and Greek, respectively. In some cases, a translation is provided.

Preferred citation

Cite as: [Indicate cited item or series here], W. Paul Loane Papers (Collection 3092), The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Processing note

Processed by Barbara H. Ryan, July 2007.

Box and folder listing

Series 1. Societies and Organizations.

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Farset	1988	1	1
Loyal Orange Lodge	1985-1995	1	2
New Ulster Political Research Group	1993	1	3
Other Organizations	1995	1	4
Religious Organizations	1984-1988	1	5
Religious Organizations	1991-1994	1	6
Royal British Legion	1992-1993	1	7
Royal Irish Rangers	1992	1	8
Scotch-Irish Society of the U.S.	1981-1993	1	9
Scotch-Irish Society Virginia Trip	1984-1992	1	10
Shankill Activity Center	1991	1	11
Sinn Fein	2001	1	12
Somme Association	1991	1	13
Ulster Cultural Center	1988-1990	1	14
Ulster Defense Association	1983-1993	1	15
Ulster Defense Association Publications	1983-1992	2	1
Ulster Democratic Party	1994-1995	2	2
Ulster Democratic Unionist Party	1985-1990	2	3
Ulster Heritage	1977-1992	2	4
Ulster-Scots Language Society	1993-1995	2	5
Unionist Joint Working Party	1987	2	6

Series 2. Personal and Professional Material.

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Book of Ballads	1983	2	7
Business Cards	n. d.	2	8
Correspondence	1981-1985	2	9
Correspondence	1986	2	10
Correspondence	1987	2	11

Correspondence	1988-1990	2	12
Correspondence	1991	2	13
Correspondence	1992-1993	2	14
Correspondence	1994	2	15
Correspondence	January-May 1995	2	16
Correspondence	June- November 1995	3	1
Correspondence	1997-2001	3	2
Correspondence	n. d.	3	3
Family Material	1960-1973	3	4
Audio cassette tape and CD: Interview for CoolFM	1993	6	n/a
Memorabilia	1984-1989	3	5
Newspaper, <i>Belfast Telegraph</i>	1992	4	2
Newspaper, <i>Belfast Telegraph</i>	1993	4	3
Newspaper, <i>Irish Voice</i>	1993-1994	4	4
Newspaper, <i>New Protestant Telegraph</i>	1989	4	5
Newspaper, <i>Orthodox Observer</i>	1991	4	6
Newspaper, <i>The Trinitarian</i>	1991	4	7
Newspaper Clippings	1981-1985	3	6
Newspaper Clippings	1986-1988	3	7
Newspaper Clippings	1989-1998	3	8
Newspaper Clippings	n. d.	3	9
Newspaper Clippings on Wine	1978-1988	3	10
Photographs	1985-1992	3	11
Photographs	1993-2000	3	12
Resume	1983	3	13
Writings on Ulster	1981-1990	3	14
Writings on Wine and Spirits	1983-1989	3	15

Series 3. Loyalist Artifacts.

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Tea Towel	1990	5	n/a
Painting by N. McClelland	1993	5	n/a
Print of painting by J. Somerville	1993	4	1
Pen	1995	5	n/a
UDA Fabric Patch	n. d.	5	n/a
Flag	n. d.	5	n/a

Audio cassette tape: "Onward to the Field," Albertbridge Accordion Band	1968	6	n/a
Audio cassette tape: "Loyalist Prisoners Aid/Ulster Defense Association," various artists	1976	6	n/a
Audio cassette tape: "Twelfth Party Sing-a-long," District Singers	1983	6	n/a
Audio cassette tape: "Ulster Says, 'No,'" various artists	1986	6	n/a
Audio cassette tape: "Blood and Thunder," Pride of the Village Flute Band	n. d.	6	n/a
Audio cassette cassette tape: "Netherton Road Flute Band," Netherton Road Flute Band	n. d.	6	n/a
Audio cassette tape: "No Surrender," various artists	n. d.	6	n/a
Audio cassette tape: "Quis separabit," various artists	n. d.	6	n/a
Audio cassette tape: "Thunder and Lightning," Cloughfern Flute Band	n. d.	6	n/a
Audio cassette tape: "True Brits," The Derry	n. d.	6	n/a
Audio cassette tape: "Ulster Glory," Young Calvay Volunteer Flute Band	n. d.	6	n/a
Audio cassette tape: "Ulster, My Home," Scott Rowland and various flute and accordion bands	n. d.	6	n/a
Audio cassette tape: "Ulster on the March—For God and Ulster," various artists	n. d.	6	n/a
Audio cassette tape: "York Road Girls," York Road Girls Accordion Band	n. d.	6	n/a