The O’Neill Henebry Wax Cylinder Project

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Project Team

- Project Leaders: Dr Mel Mercier (Department of Music, UCC), Crónán Ó Doibhlin (UCC Library, UCC)

- Project Assistant: Mary Mitchell-Ingoldsby (Department of Music, UCC)


- Library Support: Special Collections & Archives

- Research: Dr Méabh Ní Fhuartháin (Centre for Irish Studies, NUIG), Fiachra Ó Corragáin (Department of Music, UCC), John Hough (Department of Music, UCC), Tadhg Kelleher (Sulán Studios)
Preservation Part 1

Preservation and recording of tapes at Fonoteca Nacional (National Sound Archive of Mexico).
What we know...
The UCSB Library invites you to **discover** and listen to its online archive of cylinder recordings; **donate** to help the collection grow; and learn **about** how these sounds and songs create an audio history of American culture.

**Cylinder of the day**

"Russian kamarinskaja" performed by Accordion solo with organ accompaniment.

**Playlists**

Listen to thematic playlists of recordings from the archive.

**Cylinder History**

Explore the history of the cylinder recording format.

**Did You Know?**

The Indestructible Record Company began making celluloid cylinders in 1909.

**News**

October 13, 2015: Website relaunched as UCSB Cylinder Audio Archive

March 15, 2015: Vernacular wax cylinder collection added to National Recording Registry

January 8, 2015: Help our preservation efforts! Select from over 2,000 cylinders available for adoption.

[See all news](#)
Wax Cylinders

- The invention in 1877 of the American Thomas Edison
- The earliest physical format used for the recording and playback of sound
- A cylinder mounted on a revolving phonograph mandrel at first covered by tinfoil, and then by ‘wax’, celluloid, and other substances
- Obsolete technology by the period of the First World War
The O’Neill Henebry Wax Cylinder Collection

• The O’Neill Henebry collection comprises of 114 cylinders

• 84 containing field recordings made by Henebry himself in County Waterford, beginning in 1905

• 30 cylinders which were sent to Henebry by Capt. Francis O’Neill, in 1907
Francis O’Neill (1848 -1936)
O'Neill's
Music of Ireland

Eighteen Hundred and Fifty Melodies.

Air, Jigs, Reels, Hornpipes,

Yong Dances, Marches Etc.

Many of which are now published for the first time.

Collected from all available sources,
and edited by

Capt. Francis O'Neill.
Arranged by by 14476 A

James O'Neill.

CHICAGO

LYON & HEALY

1905
Rev. Dr Richard Henebry (1863 -1916)
Henebry’s biography

- Catholic University in Washington in 1898
- Various diocesan appointments in Waterford and Lismore
- Chair of Irish Language and Literature at UCC in 1909
- A leading linguist and teacher (Coláiste na Rinne)
- Publications: *Irish Music (1903)* & *A Handbook of Irish Music (1928).*
The Relationship
Archiving sound

• Sound archives were developed from 1899 onwards in Europe

• *Berlin Phonogramm-Archiv* established by Carl Stumpf (1848-1946) and directed by Eric Von Hornbostel (1877-1935), the father of Comparative Musicology

• Henebry sent fourteen of his own field recordings to the archive in Berlin

• A lecture St. Anthony’s Hall, UCC, December 1912

• Professor Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin & British Institute of Recorded Sound
Henri Chamoux’s Archeophone
Preservation Part 2

UDC’s

Heritage

Risk and Value

Community Enterprise

Partnerships and lessons learned
Project Support

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• Professor Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin (Irish World Academy of Music, University of Limerick), Nicholas Carolan (Former Director, Irish Traditional Music Archive)

• Filming: Stephen Bean (UCC) & Cork Film Centre
Thank you!

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