



## **BACKGROUND**

### **Armagh Robinson Library**

Armagh Robinson Library is a rare survivor of the physical expression of eighteenth-century scholarship. With the Library of Trinity College, and Marsh's Library, both in Dublin, it is one of the three most important heritage libraries on the island of Ireland.

Northern Ireland's oldest public library, Armagh Robinson Library was founded by Archbishop Richard Robinson (later first Baron Rokeby of Armagh) in 1771. The Library remains in the original building that Robinson had built for it.

Along with its second building at nearby No 5 Vicars' Hill, where examples of the Library's non-book collections are on display, Armagh Robinson Library is an accredited museum. The Library appears in *The Lonely Planet Guide's Top 500 Places to Visit in the United Kingdom*, one of only twenty tourist attractions from Northern Ireland to feature.



*Interior, Armagh Robinson Library*



*Interior, No 5 Vicars' Hill*

### **The Print Collection**

The Library was bequeathed Archbishop Robinson's impressive collection of 4,430 important and rare engravings, known as the 'Rokeby Collection'. The collection comprises fifteenth- to eighteenth-century prints, notably those by Goltzius, Vouet, Mellan, Hogarth, Piranesi, Bartolozzi and the Sadeler family.

Elenor Ling, from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, and Nicholas Stogdon, an authority on eighteenth-century prints, visited the Library in November 2016. They stated that the collection is a very rare example of an eighteenth-century print collection, in institutional hands, which is intact. Taken as a whole, the significant collection offers an insight into the fashion and tastes of the late eighteenth century and the individual who brought them together.

## **The Research Fellowship**

The Research Fellow will complete an online catalogue of the entire collection and prepare content for a publication on the history and significance of the collection. A catalogue of approximately 85% of the print collection on the Library's current Collection Management System, Museum Plus, was compiled by the Library's Archivist between 2012–2013 and 2014–2016, but could not be completed within the limits of the time and grant funding available. An online version of the catalogue is available at <http://armaghrobinsonlibrary.co.uk/wp/print-collection-2/>. Photography of the collection has also been substantially completed, but not all photographs have been uploaded to the online catalogue.

The Research Fellow will also produce one temporary exhibition in the Library on part of the collection, as well as an external temporary exhibition at another accredited museum.

Based at Armagh Robinson Library, the Rokeby Collection Research Fellow will work closely with the Director and will collaborate with other members of staff as appropriate.

### **JOB DESCRIPTION**

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|----------------------|---|
| Job Title:           | Curatorial Research Fellow  |
| Duration:            | Fixed term contract for 15 months<br>(January 2021 – March 2022)  |
| Hours of Work:       | 35 hours per week (excluding breaks). Whilst mainly Monday–Friday, 9am – 5pm (with 1 hour for lunch), some evening and weekend work may be required as dictated by operational needs. |
| Holiday Entitlement: | 25 days plus 11 Public Holidays   |
| Salary/Pay Scale:    | £25,481 (Related to NJC Scale Grade 19)   |
| Reporting to:        | The Director (with the Assistant Keeper acting as a supervisor to the Research Fellow, where appropriate)   |

### **Main Purpose of the Job**

Funded by the Paul Mellon Centre, the purpose of the post will be to catalogue, research, interpret and promote the 'Rokeby Collection', a collection of 4,430 fifteenth- to eighteenth-century prints bequeathed by Archbishop Richard Robinson to Armagh Public Library (now Armagh Robinson Library).

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

- Carry out specialist and original research including cataloguing, interpretation and documentation relating to the print collection of the Library's founder, Archbishop Richard Robinson, 1st Baron Rokeby of Armagh (the 'Rokeby Collection').
- Update and create online records of the Library's prints collection.
- Contribute proactively to the digitisation of the collection.

- Write catalogue entries based on specialist research for the online catalogue and as contributions for publications on the collection.
- Investigate research questions in collaboration with the Director and with external consultant conservators and print experts.
- Develop skills in connoisseurship through understanding the material and visual evidence that the prints provide.
- Share knowledge with curators, schools and members of the public.
- Present research findings at seminars, conferences and workshops. (There will be a budget of c.£2,000 to cover expenses associated with research trips and attendance at suitable conferences.)
- Develop and sustain research networks nationally and internationally, based on research travel and on research workshops with invited researchers and specialists.
- Plan workshops/conferences/events and arrange visits of invited researchers and specialists.
- Assist with planning and organisation of photographic and investigative work on the collection.
- Safe handling of the prints.
- Mentor and supervise volunteers and student interns on prints research and on digitisation methodologies.
- Contribute to public engagement events and to education programmes, including giving talks on the collection.
- Produce articles/posts for the Library's website and social media, in order to update the public about the progress of the project and to publicise particular highlights of the collection.

## **General**

- Adhere to all Library policies and procedures.
- Adhere to health and safety regulations and be aware of disability and access requirements, familiar with evacuation procedures and able to implement them in case of an emergency, including assisting visitors and colleagues.
- Keep up to date with developments and changes in legislation to aid and enhance the role, whilst ensuring adherence to legislation.
- Undertake training and attend meetings as appropriate and provide feedback and comments to maintain the high standard of the Library.

- Promote and safeguard the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk with whom you may come into contact.
- Any other reasonable duties which fall within the remit of this job role.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

### **Essential Criteria**

- Have experience of working with and researching Western prints of the fifteenth to eighteenth centuries (for instance, through working within a library or museum, or within the Prints Department of an Auction House).
- A scholarly record of research publications in art history or evidence of potential publications, preferably in relation to early modern prints in Western Europe.
- A good general knowledge of fifteenth- to eighteenth-century prints and the history of collecting such.
- An understanding of research methodologies in relation to historic arts collections.
- An awareness of issues surrounding the care, conservation, exhibition and security of graphic art collections.
- Excellent communication skills, with fluent spoken and written English.
- Excellent IT skills (Microsoft Office suite) and experience of Collections Management Database use. (Armagh Robinson Library currently uses MuseumPlus as its Collections Management System.)
- High level of organisational skills and of time management.
- Previous experience of cataloguing pre-1800 prints.
- Demonstrable ability to work as part of a team.

### **Desirable Criteria**

- Proficiency in reading Latin or a European language other than English, e.g. French, German or Italian.
- Previous experience engaging the public with collections-based research.