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1915. Patrick Pearse - Oration of P. H. Pearse over Rossa's Grave
flysheet.

Dublin Fergus O'Connor n. d. (1915) single sheet 195 x 250mm original flysheet printed on one side only.
Jeremiah O' Donovan Rossa was one of the founders of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. He spent a number of terms in prison before being exiled to America, from where he continued to direct Fenian activities. His death in 1915 gave the IRB a propaganda opportunity by bringing his body back to Ireland for a large public funeral in Glasnevin cemetery. This oration delivered at the graveside by Patrick Pearse is considered to be a "masterpiece of patriotic rhetoric", containing as it does the iconic ending "— but the fools, the fools, the fools! They have left us our Fenian dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace." It has been argued that this funeral, with its prominent involvement of the Irish Volunteers, starts the countdown to the 1916 Rising and is a foretaste of Pearse's Proclamation of the Irish Republic. A very good copy of this fragile and historically important piece of Irish Nationalist ephemera.
€200-€300 (€170-€250 approx)

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Pádraig Pearse - Three Lectures on Gaelic Topics

Dublin, M. H. Gill and Son, 1898 60pp. Illustrated with head and tail pieces, and decorative initials. 195 x 120mm. Original wine coloured cloth with gilt lettering to front cover. Patrick (Pádraig) Henry Pearse was 18 years old when he published this, his first book.
This copy belonged to Michael Staines, with his signature on the title page. Michael Joseph Staines (1888-1955). A member of the Gaelic League, he joined the Irish Volunteers in 1913 and through membership of this organisation, and the IRB, he became close to Patrick Pearse. In the lead up to the 1916 Rising he was appointed national quartermaster and fought in the GPO alongside Pearse, being one of stretcher bearers who evacuated James Connolly from the premises. Imprisoned in Frongoch, he became Commandant of South Camp and developed a trusted relationship with Michael Collins. He was the first Garda Commissioner. Very Good.
€200-€300 (€170-€250 approx)

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Pearse, P. H. An Sgoil a Direct Method Course in Irish Part I

Dublin: Maunsel, 1913. First Edition. 8vo. Soft Cover. Fair Pp. iv. 52. 6 coloured illustrations. A few faults, fair, but scarce.
€150-€200 (€130-€170 approx)

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Thomas MacDonagh signed copy of his book Through The Ivory Gate A Book of Verse

1902, Dublin. Original green cloth gilt, pp112. MacDonagh's first book of poetry inscribed on page 111 "To my dear friend Father Byrne C.S.Sp." and signed "Thomas MacDonagh". Father Byrne taught MacDonagh at Rockwell College, Co. Tipperary and encouraged him to write poetry. Thomas MacDonagh (Irish: Tomás Mac Donnchadha; 1 February 1878 – 3 May 1916) was an Irish political activist, poet, playwright, educationalist and revolutionary leader. He was one of the seven leaders of the Easter Rising of 1916, a signatory of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic and Commandant of the 2nd Battalion, Dublin Brigade of the Irish Volunteers, which was based at Jacob's factory. He was executed for his part in the Rising at the age of thirty-eight.

MacDonagh became a teacher at St. Enda's School and was later a lecturer at University College Dublin. He was a member of the Gaelic League, where he befriended Patrick Pearse and Eoin MacNeill. He was a founding member of the Irish Volunteers with MacNeill and Pearse. He was an accomplished writer of poetry and plays.
€1,000-€1,500 (€830-€1,250 approx)

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1916 (24 March) A very important letter from the commander of the Officer Training Corps of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
On headed paper of the RCSI OTC, Lieutenant FJ Power writes to Major GA Harris regarding information received concerning a possible raid on the armoury of the RCSI OTC. In fact the College was taken by the Citizen Army 4 weeks after this letter. Power refers to overheard remarks from "one of the College porters, who is a member of Larkin's Union" and "anyone ...requiring information as to the position [of the OTC weapons] could easily obtain it from the students... amongst whom we have some rank outsiders... and men of doubtful loyalty." Even in the OTC Power says "we have men I would not trust in these matters". A draft reply by Major Harris is on reverse, approving of placing an overnight guard on the OTC stores. Foolscape, manuscript. The heightening of security at the OTC's helped them secure College Green, and surrounding streets and cut off the Citizen Army in Stephen's Green from other units of the Rising. It also aided the safe arrival of the army reinforcements from Kingstown to the city centre. An important document.
€800-€1,000 (€670-€830 approx)

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1916 Rising: British Army Martial Law Proclamation Poster

An extremely scarce proclamation poster issued on Wednesday 26 April 1916 by Major-General L. B. Friend (Commander of Troops in Ireland), ordering a state of martial law and listing the regulations to be observed under said law in Dublin City and County. An excellent example. 30 x 20in. (76 x 51cm)
€800-€1,200 (€670-€1,000 approx)

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1916 Rising: an eyewitness account by a Unionist in the leafy suburb of Ballsbridge and his fascinating archive 1878-1920

The diaries, complete 1878-1920, and some correspondence to his daughter and related letters of Sir Alfred Irwin, Companion of the Star of India. The diaries relate at first to his service in India, and then to his retirement in Dublin. Overall this is a primary source for research into an Anglo-Irish servant of the British Empire and his attitude to the world around him. His handwritten letter of 25 April to 4th May 1916 (pp44) starts "At 4.20 yesterday afternoon Aunt Emily telephoned that the Sinn Féiners had risen & were shooting in Dublin. They missed Uncle Charlie by an inch & she was not sure if that particular shot was fired by Countess Markievitch [sic], but at any rate the Countess was in the thick of it.... The rebels had got the G.P.O.... 3 policemen and 2 children were killed... the Sinn Féiners took some milk from [the milkboy]". He then goes on to give his account of the Rising through his own experiences and those of "Aunt Emily", the servants in his house, the messenger boys, jarveys and others who visit him. A fascinating and sometimes amusing account by a "Colonel Blimp" type of character, well worthy of publication. A postcard dated 2 May 1916 gives a very brief account, while later letters refer to people seeking shelter and food "probably looted" being sold door to door. There are 30 letters, pp2 to 6pp each, to his daughter, Dorothy, in India, also letters from his son, Alfred, who commanded a battalion of the East Surrey regiment in World War I and in 1919 on the abortive British support of the white Russians in Murmansk, including a detailed letter on the latter adventure. There are also letters from Kathleen, another daughter. Sir Alfred Irwin (1853-1920) was the son of the Archdeacon of Elphin, educated at Kingstown School, entered the Indian Civil Service in 1876. in the Punjab, later transferring to Burma and rose to be Active Chief Judge of Burma by 1908, retiring in 1909 to Dublin. He was married to Alice Kathleen French, daughter of Christopher French. His son Alfred was awarded the DSO with two bars. His daughters were Dorothy and Kathleen. (30 letters and 41 Lett's Diaries).
€1,500-€1,800 (€1,250-€1,500 approx)