

## Archivist's Report to IMC AGM November 2021

### Archive

From the first meet on the Sugar Loaf in 1948 and the formation of the Belfast Section in March 1952 the IMC was the face of Irish Mountaineering and was the primary publisher of guidebooks until the establishment in 1971 of the Federation of Mountaineering Clubs of Ireland (FMCI) – the predecessor of Mountaineering Ireland (MI).

The Club has much material from the past 70 years stored in a filing cabinet in the Cow House at the IMC Hut in Glendassan. While these records are reasonably secure, space is at a premium and there is nowhere to work or store more stuff.

I have been working with MI to obtain use of a secure storage/workspace on the Sport Ireland campus but progress has been slow due to Covid-19 restrictions and the fact that MI staff are still largely working from home. We are conscious that there is much historically significant material from the early days that is in danger of being lost forever. The intention is to make a determined effort to collect and secure such records as soon as we have a suitable location. The collection would include artefacts such as old boots, ropes and other equipment.

Ultimately the goal would be to make everything available to the public modelled on the military archives.

This page on the Club website <https://www.irishmountaineeringclub.org/imc-archive/> has links to IMC films from 1950s and 1960s, historic IMC photographs and oral histories collected in 2010 from some of the pioneers of Irish climbing.

### Library

The IMC Library has been part of the MI library, on a loan basis, for a number of years and is not accessible at the moment because of Covid-19 restrictions.

The Club has received a number of books as bequests over the past couple of years. I have sorted and collated books from the bequest of the late Reggie Taylor that are stored at my house. I received old guide books from the family of the late JW Bremner and some early IMC publications from the family of the late Joss Lynam. A considerable number of books from other bequests are being stored at various members' houses for safe keeping. Assuming that we get use of workspace at Sport Ireland, I intend to collect and sort this material. Valuable books and non-duplicates will be put in the library. A decision will be made as to the disposition of surplus books – a reading room at the Glendassan Hut, disposal to members or sell-off.

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Dónal Ó Murchú  
6-Samhain2021