

# Dun Emer and Cuala Press

*116-piece Collection of Dun Emer and Cuala Press Books, Pamphlets and Broadsides:*

This is the most comprehensive gathering of Dun Emer and Cuala Press items to appear on the market in many decades. It consists of 116 items in excellent condition, including nearly every book published by the Dun Emer Press and Cuala Press before its revival in 1969. It also includes a few booklets, a number of prints, and titles printed during the revival. Of the original 77 titles published between the inception of the [Dun Emer] Press in 1903, and 1945 publication, all but 7 are the original, limited first editions, these exceptions being photolithographed copies produced during the Press's revival. Two of the early editions have handwritten notes from Elizabeth Corbet Yeats, one on original Cuala stationery.

“The Dun Emer Industries were established at Dundrum County Dublin in 1902 by Evelyn Gleeson, a deep suffragist, who wanted to set up a craft enterprise along the lines of William Morris's utopian socialist ideals, whose ‘mission statement’ was ‘to find work for Irish hands in the making of beautiful things.’ ...the Industries originally involved doing fine embroidery on Irish linen, the weaving of tapestry and carpets and the printing of books by hand. A bookbinding workshop was added later.

Susan ‘Lily’ Yeats, (1866–1949) and Elizabeth ‘Lolly’ Corbet Yeats (1868–1940) returned from London...and in 1903 Elizabeth founded the Dun Emer Press.... (Their brother) W.B. (William Butler) Yeats acted as editorial adviser.



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A comprehensive inventory of this *116-piece Collection* can be found on page 15 of [this link](#)

Elizabeth Yeats, initially guided by Emery Walker, the arts and crafts printer who had inspired William Morris, endeavored to handprint books, bookplates, calendars, hand-colored prints, Christmas cards, and pamphlets featuring texts by the outstanding writers and illustrators of the Irish revival. ...In total she published seventy-seven volumes, eleven of which were produced at Dun Emer, each corresponding to their earliest ideal of 14 point Caslon old style font, light ivory-toned rag, mould-made paper manufactured near Dublin, bound in a small quarto format between blue-or grey-covered boards with a linen spine. Her clearly legible, slender volumes with their distinctive paper labels may be seen as the sole survivors of the handcrafted ideal established in 1900 by Walker and T. J. Cobden-Sanderson's Doves Press.

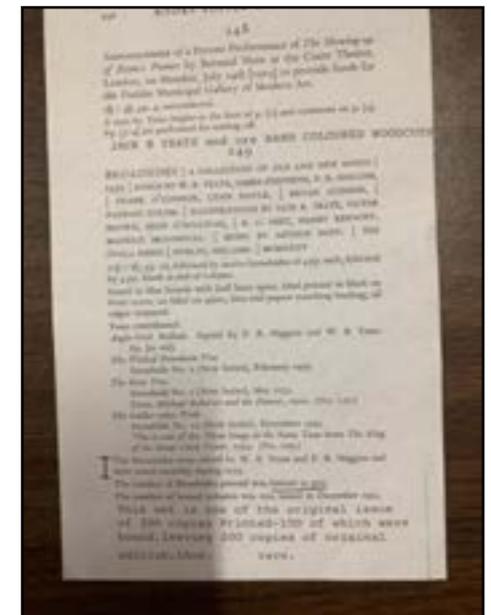
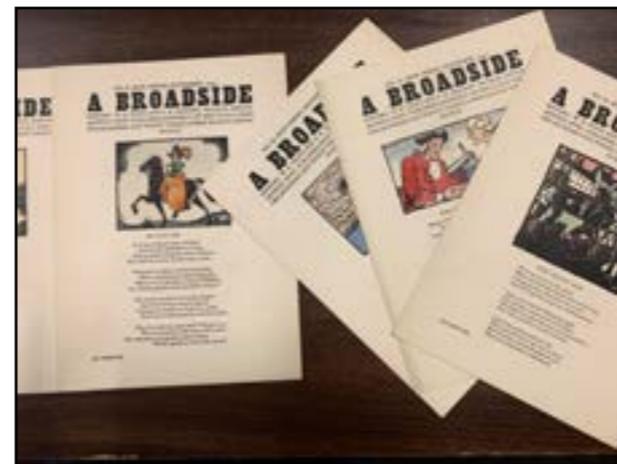
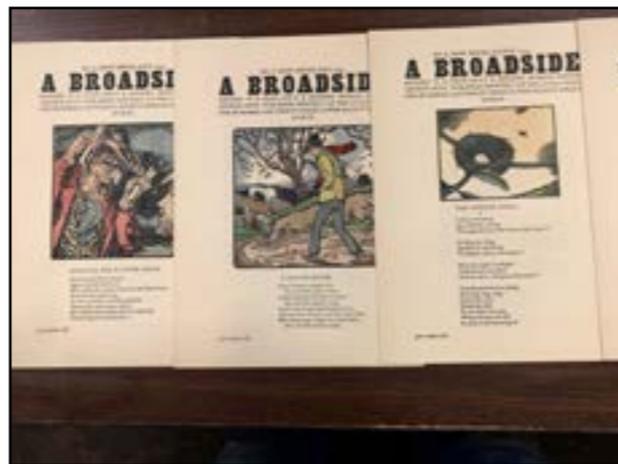
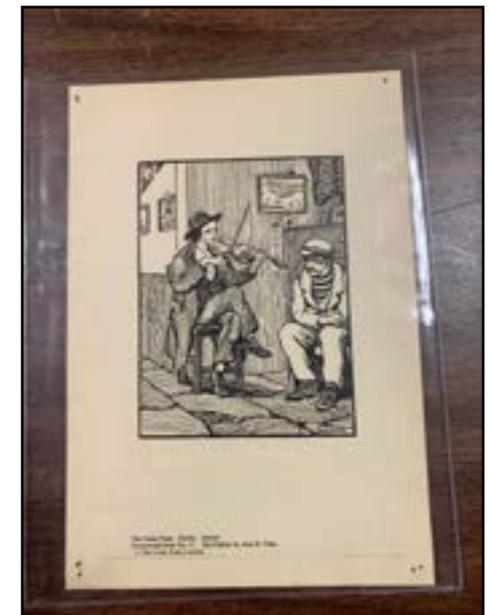
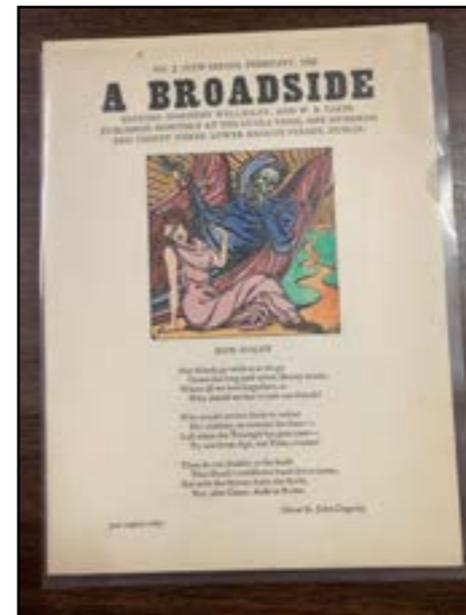
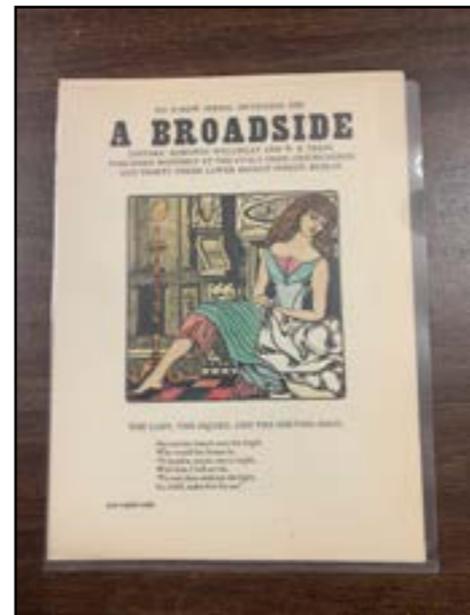
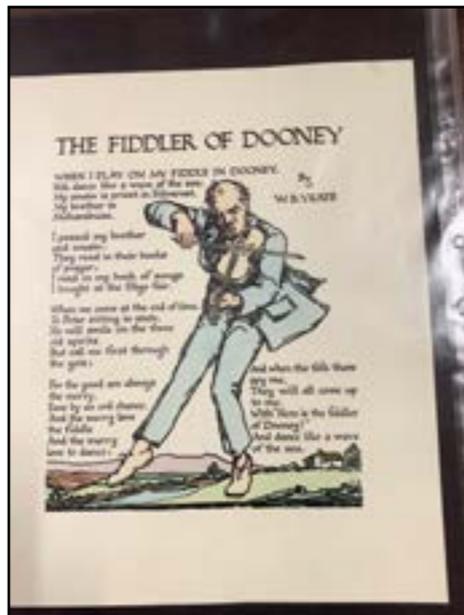
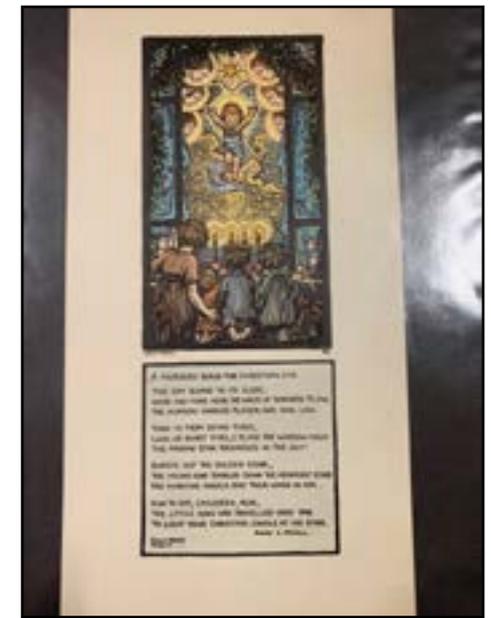
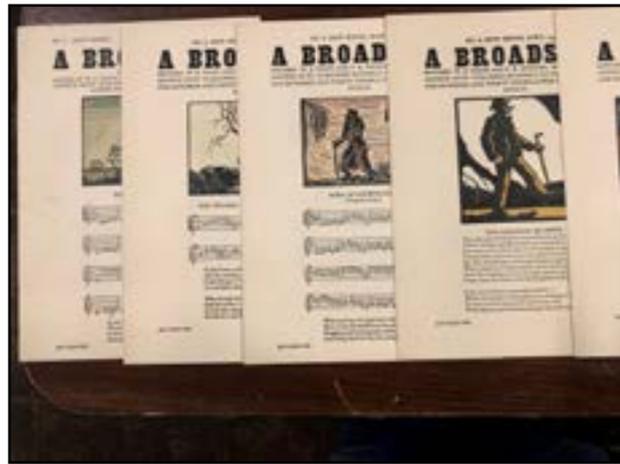
Printing of the first book was completed on 16 July 1903. This was 'In the Seven Woods', a collection of new poetry by W.B. Yeats, together with his play 'On Baile's Strand'. The edition consisted of 325 copies...[and] was the first of many books by living Irish writers to appear from the Press over the next forty-three years, almost thirty of them by W.B. Yeats. Most of the books were published in limited numbers ranging from 200 to 500 copies, the few exceptions being during the Press's "revival" period which began in the 1970s.

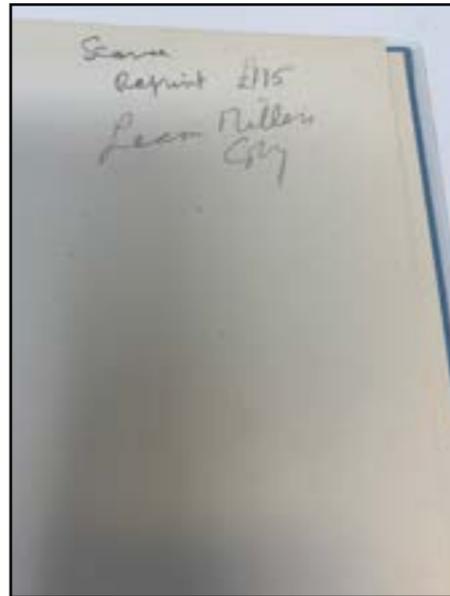
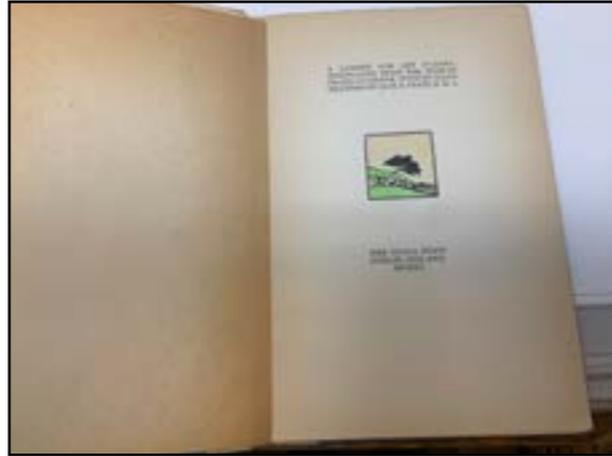
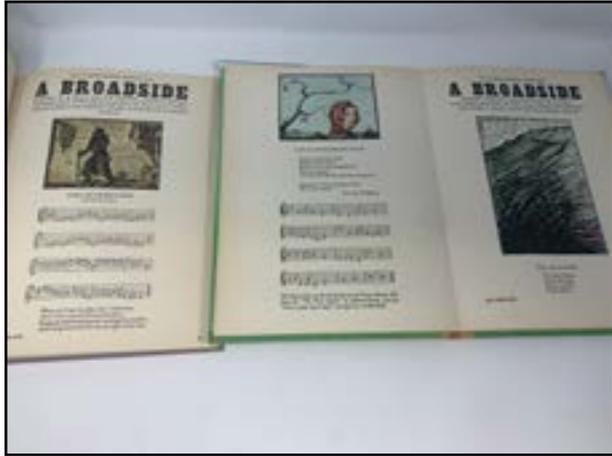
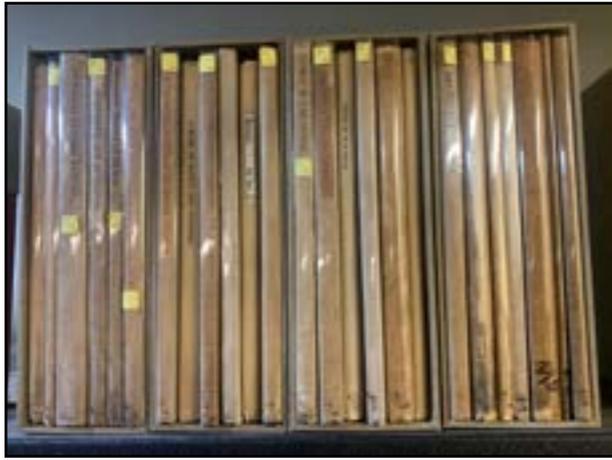
Notes from 1) ODMB; 2) L. Miller, The Dun Emer Press, later the Cuala Press (Dublin, 1973) and 3) L. Miller, A Brief Account of the Cuala Press Formerly The Dun Emer Press Founded by Elizabeth Corbet Yeats in MCMIII (Dublin, 1971)

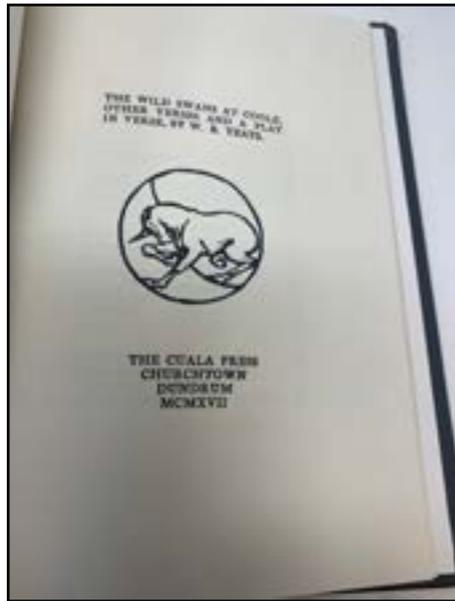
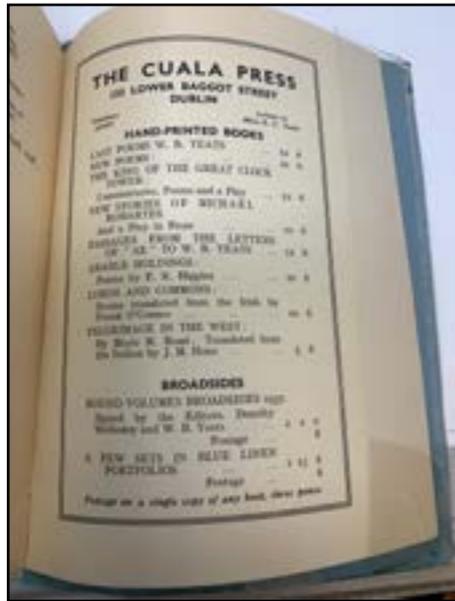
In 1908, the Yeats sisters separated their part of the Industries from Dun Emer, taking the embroidery and printing workshops with them, and naming the latter Cuala (COO-a-lah) Press.

Although few of the books were illustrated, most of them had one or more decorative devices usually on the title page...In addition to books, three series of "A Broadside" were produced, featuring ballad poetry or drawings by Jack B. Yeats and other artists. Broad sides from the second series are represented in this collection. The press continued through the 1940s, through the death of Elizabeth Corbet Yeats in 1940, and was taken over by George Yeats, (the wife of W.B.). After 25 years of relative inactivity, it was revived in 1969 by Liam Miller, Thomas Kinsella and others. ■

*Photos below*







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