

Marie Coleman  
Papers of Piaras Béaslaí (1895-1965)

In 1998-1999 I held the first Studentship in Irish History at the National Library of Ireland, in conjunction with the Irish Committee of Historical Sciences. During that year I catalogued the papers of Piaras Béaslaí, a prominent figure in the Irish revolution and the first biographer of Michael Collins. It was a great opportunity to expand my knowledge of the revolutionary period, which remains the focus of my research. Making the collection accessible has been of benefit to many scholars, including Béaslaí's biographer, Pádraig Ó Siadhail. Most recently, in his widely acclaimed study of the revolutionary generation, *Vivid Faces*, Roy Foster drew extensively on Béaslaí's diaries. My current research focuses on the military service pensions and the experience of revolutionary veterans after independence, an idea which first came to me when working on the Béaslaí collection. The year I spent in the NLI was a fantastic opportunity and a privilege to work in one of the great cultural institutions on this island.