
Proposal for the portrait of Richard O'Carroll for the Richard O'Carroll Room, City Hall

The Members Room, in City Hall was in 2016, the Centenary of the Easter Rising, renamed in honour of Richard O'Carroll. The O'Carroll family have proposed that a painted portrait which the family owned be given to DCC to hang in the room. It was agreed that the painting would be appraised to see if it was suitable for the room and consideration was to be given to commissioning a painted portrait if it was not thought appropriate. Obviously, with the year-long COVID-19 pandemic it has not been possible to view the painting in real life. However, the family have kindly supplied photographs of both the painted portrait and of a photograph of Richard O'Carroll.

Deputy City Librarian, Director of the Hugh Lane Gallery and Public Art Officer, have separately viewed the portrait and each have thought that the best proposal to honour Richard O'Carroll in the renamed room in City Hall is through photography. It is proposed that if the O'Carroll family were willing to lend the framed photograph of Richard O'Carroll to Dublin City Council they would have it removed from its frame, copied and that the facsimile would be framed to be presented in the O'Carroll Room. A limited number of copies of the original photograph could also be gifted to O'Carroll family members.

The rationale for this proposal is that while the painted portrait is not considered to be appropriate for the room, the photograph is a fine example of photography of that time. It is a direct image of the man and so brings with it an authenticity which a portrait painted from the photograph does not. The photograph, appropriately framed would also seem more suited to the architecture and setting of the Richard O'Carroll room in this 18th century City hall. A professional photography organisation such as the Gallery of Photography have the equipment and skills to handle this sensitive and valuable item and would be able to scan and make copies to be printed on (for example) archival paper. They could as experts in photography assist and give advice on the framing of the photograph. Dublin City Council would insure the photograph while away from the O'Carroll family and only use specialist art handlers to collect deliver and return the photograph to the family.

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Public Arts Manager

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