

## THE SILVER COLLECTION

Marvel at the exquisite craftsmanship on display in the University's Silver Collection, showcased in the foyer of the Naughton Gallery and the entranceway of the Administration Building. One of the University's most fascinating assets, this captivating collection features items of historical significance and world-class artistry, including the prestigious Sir Robert Hart Silver Collection, ceremonial graduation maces, and an array of ornate tableware used for formal dinners. These pieces not only represent the University's rich heritage but also its commitment to preserving and celebrating its artistic and cultural treasures. The following pieces can be seen in the Administration Building display.

- 1. Tyrone Crystal decanter**  
 Tyrone Crystal was established in 1971, although there is a history of making glass in the area as far back as 1771.
- 2. Crystal decanter with silver jug lid**  
 London, 1893-94  
 Made by Garrard of London and presented to commemorate the Chancellorship of Sir Ronald Wright (1984-1991).
- 3. Silver hot water jug with string wrapped handle**  
 London, 1895. Inscribed with the initials EAA.  
 Makers' initials JJW & FCW.
- 4. Silver 19<sup>th</sup> century tea set in the rococo style**  
 London, 1897-98. Maker's initials CSH.

The rococo style began in France in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and is characterised by its ornate design, often incorporating motifs taken from nature. This set, comprising teapot, milk jug, and sugar bowl was generously donated by Nora Riordan in 2008 in recognition of the considerable influence the University had on the Riordan family, many of whom studied here over the last 80 years. The service was a wedding gift to her grandparents in the 1890s.
- 5. Silver pierced potato ring with blue liner**  
 Dublin, 1907-1908. Maker's initials JS.

Silver dish rings, sometimes called potato rings, are circular stands made for the purpose of insulating highly varnished tables from hot bowls. They served as ornamental table centrepieces, with elaborate piercing and chasing. Though invented in London in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, it was in Ireland that they developed into items of exquisite beauty. In modern times, a blue glass lining was often placed inside to best show off the workmanship.
- 6. Silver salver**  
 London, 1954-55. Maker's initials ARE.  
 Presented by Sir Edward Maufe Hon LLD, consultant architect of the Whitla Hall, Queen's University Belfast, in 1954.
- 7. Silver bowl**  
 Birmingham, 1806-1807. Maker's initials WB Ld.  
 Presented by Sir John Anderson, Pro-Chancellor (1969-1979)
- 8. Irish silver three-handled circular bowl and cover**  
 Dublin, 1912-13. Maker's initials Sharman D Neill of Belfast. Bequest of Mrs D.M. Arbirthnot (1961).
- 9. Electroplated samovar with rams' head handles**  
 Presented to the RF Dill Esq MD & Mrs Dill with a brougham, car, horse, and jewellery as a token of esteem and regard by the large circle of friends, 16 May 1872.

The use of the samovar was adopted from Russia. Concentrated tea was poured from a teapot into a cup, after which hot water from the samovar was added to dilute the tea to the appropriate strength.
- 10. Pair of enamelled and silver Chinese vases on wooden fretwork stands**  
 Received from the Rt. Hon. Sir John Newell Jordan KGMG, his Britannic Majesty's Minister to China, who was presented with them from Ch'U Yang Kwang, Civil Governor of Shantung, Peking on 16 February 1920.
- 11. Silver potato ring with pierced hunting design and clear glass bowl**  
 Dublin, 1907-1908. Makers' initials JW & ECW.
- 12. Irish silver embossed basin with paw feet**  
 Dublin, 1901-02. Makers' initials JW & ECW.
- 13. Victorian silver epergne embellished with vine leaves and grapes**  
 London, 1870.  
 Presented to DB Lyttle Esq by the employees of Brookfield Spinning Mills.

An epergne is a large table centrepiece of a frame of extended branches supporting holders for flowers, fruit, or sweetmeats. This is the centrepiece of a set of three epergnes, known as garniture, the smaller two of which can be converted into candelabra.