

**BRIAN BARRETT PHOTOGRAPHS**

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## Brian Barrett Photographs

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## Introduction

This small collection of photographs was deposited in the Franciscan Library Killiney in 1984 by Mr Brian Barrett, a journalist with Independent Newspapers. The cohesive figure through all the photographs is Eamon de Valera with whom Mr Barrett came into frequent contact through political reporting for the *Irish Independent* and with whom he seems to have established a more cordial relationship than one assumes is usual between a politician and a political reporter. While Mr Barrett features in most of the photographs himself, there are other autographed prints which must have been given to him by Mr de Valera. Most of the eight photographs actually date from the period after Mr de Valera's election to the Presidency.

The presence of the de Valera Papers in the FLK was, it is safe to assume, the incentive for Mr Barrett to deposit the photographs there. They were transferred to University College Dublin Archives Department in July 1997 with the other non-Franciscan private paper collections in the FLK. The photographs have simply been described in chronological order. Most had been framed and displayed and some, the colour prints particularly, had deteriorated. Much of the descriptive information has been taken from captions attached to the photographs by Mr Barrett.

S.H.  
May 2001

## Brian Barrett Photographs

- 1 [1945/6] Mounted black and white photograph of Eamon and Sinead de Valera in parkland [at Blackrock College sports day?]. He is in semi-profile looking intently ahead. She is standing at his left side, smiling and looking in the same direction, wearing an overcoat and hat. They are shown from the waist upwards. Mature trees are in the background.  
Mount size: 10x7.5 inches  
Print size: 8x6 inches
  
- 2 June 1951 Mounted black and white group photograph of Eamon de Valera, then Leader of the Opposition, with members of the press corps covering the general election campaign. Standing from left are Mick Kearney, *Irish Times*, Niall Carroll, *Irish Press*, Mr de Valera, Brian Barrett, *Irish Independent*, Sylvie Sullivan, *Cork Examiner*, George Kerr, *Irish Press* and Tommie Lavery, *Irish Press* photographer. They are standing on gravel with shrubs in the immediate background, trees further behind and hills on the horizon. A flagpole with tricolour is visible on the right.  
Mount size: 12x10 inches  
Print size: 8x6 inches
  
- 3 January 1960 Mounted black and white photograph of President Eamon de Valera standing between Brian Barrett on his left and Fr Joe Barrett SMA, his brother, on his right, in a book-lined room at Áras an Uachtaráin. The President and Brian Barrett are looking to camera, Fr Joe Barrett is looking across at his brother.  
Mount size: 10x8 inches  
Print size 8x5 inches

- 4                      November 1966                      Mounted colour photograph of President de Valera at Áras an Uachtaráin with a group of Irish journalists who had reported his election campaigns while he was in politics. The President is standing in the middle of the group who are in a v-formation to either side of him. Brian Barrett is standing on his immediate right holding a volume which he will later present to the President. [P181/5]. The President and pressmen are looking in the main at the Irish blackthorn stick which they have presented to him.  
Mount size: 12x10 inches  
Print size: 9.5x7.5 inches
- 5                      November 1966                      Mounted colour photograph of President de Valera with Brian Barrett at Áras an Uachtaráin on the same occasion as the presentation by the group of journalists. The photograph is taken in the same room. The President has just accepted a copy of a play written by Brian Barrett, 'A song for sixpence', about the 1916 Rising, in which the President is mentioned. The two are standing, the President holding the volume. The print has been autographed by the President. Attached is a letter from the President to Brian Barrett, 4 Trimlestown Drive, Booterstown, Dublin (5 December 1966, 1p) acknowledging the gift.  
Mount size: 9x7 inches  
Print size: 6.5x4.5 inches
- 6                      November 1966                      Colour photograph of a group including President de Valera and Brian Barrett at Áras an Uachtaráin on the occasion of the presentation by Mr Barrett of a copy of his play to the President. From the left the group includes Col Sean Brennan, A.D.C. to the President, Miss Marie O'Kelly, Personal Secretary to the President, the President, Mr Barrett and Padraig Ó hAnnrachain, head of the Government Information Bureau. The President is holding the volume, the group largely relaxed and smiling.  
Print size: 7x5 inches

