

## **Derelict Dublin**

Dublin City Public Libraries has made available an on-line gallery of images of the Dublin of “Strumpet City.” It can be viewed at:

<http://dublincitypubliclibraries.com/derelict-dublin-1913>

These photographs of Dublin in 1913 show a city in a state of dereliction. The photographs were published as part of a Report produced as the result of the tragedy which occurred in 1913. In September of that year, two tenement buildings, located at No. 66 and No. 67 Church Street, collapsed. Seven people, including three children, were killed and many other inmates were seriously injured. The tragedy highlighted the dreadful conditions of many of the buildings in Dublin, both in terms of massive overcrowding and the physical decay of the dwellings. In response, the government set up a Committee to enquire into the housing conditions of the poor in Dublin. The Committee’s Report, when published, included photographs taken by John Cooke and W.J. Joyce, of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC). The pictures gave a graphic and often harrowing picture of the dreadful conditions in which so many Dubliners lived. These form the bulk of the photographs shown in the Image Gallery, but in addition to these, the Digital Projects Section of Dublin City Public Libraries has placed on-line newly discovered photographs of Dublin streets, courts and alleys. In some cases these show the same locations as the images published in the report and it seems more than likely that the photographs were taken at the same time. This is the first time these images have been made available on the internet, and they form an invaluable visual resource for anyone interested in the Dublin of this period.

The original Report is available for viewing in the Reading Room of the Dublin City Library and Archive, 138 – 144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2.

### **Acknowledgements**

Dublin City Public Libraries would like to acknowledge the assistance of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland and Christian Corlett, author of *Darkest Dublin* (Dublin: Worldwell, 2008), in the compilation of this image gallery.

**For further information contact:** [digital.library@dublincity.ie](mailto:digital.library@dublincity.ie)

**The Derelict Dublin Image Gallery is just one of a number of Dublin City Libraries Image Galleries available for viewing at:**

<http://www.dublincitypubliclibraries.com/image-galleries>

**The Image Galleries also include sample material from the Special Collections of Dublin City Library and Archive and photographic material of Dublin in times gone by.**

Digital Projects Section

Dublin City Library and Archive

138-144 Pearse Street

Dublin 2

Email: [digital.library@dublincity.ie](mailto:digital.library@dublincity.ie)



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