

Time to Think

Open University Journeys in British and Irish prisons during the years of conflict, 1972-2000

Oral History interview clip transcript

Name of Interviewee: **Eamonn MacDermott**

Interviewed by: **Jenny Meegan**

Date of interview: **02/08/2012**

Important

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this transcript, however no transcript is an exact translation of the spoken word, and this document is intended to be a guide to the original recording, not replace it.

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Clip title: Could be difficult!

Duration: 00:01:26

Clip start point in full interview: 00:15:55

Clip end point in full interview: 00:17:21

Interview identifier: 006_S_01

Description: Eamonn MacDermott remembers how using the experiment kit for his Level One Science course (S102) posed problems in the confines of the H Blocks. One experiment was with a bunch of keys and another required going out at night to measure the moon, neither of which were allowed!

Transcript:

Yeah, well the point was we went through them and there was what, there was Social Science which I had done, there was an Arts foundation course, but I had already done third level Arts at that stage, so there was no point in doing that. There was Maths, which I wasn't wildly - there was Technology, which I didn't like. So the last one was Science, but the Science one was quite funny because there was a kit came with it, which I think, I think we were given something like two items of the whole kit - that was all we were permitted, and I always remember one of the experiments was take a bunch of keys, which was quite funny, you know. There was, I can't even remember what the experiment, but I always remember that there get a bunch of keys and then I was going "Could be difficult!" And the other one was to go out at night and measure the moon, which again was rather difficult because we weren't quite allowed out at night. But so I remember that was funny, although I enjoyed the Science, I have to say it was different. It put me down a road I hadn't been down before but I did, a lot of what I had done at school, suddenly became clear, 'Oh, that is why I did that'.

What happened with the bunch of keys?

I couldn't do it, I just couldn't. I mean, they sent over a kit, there was a kit with the Science course and I think once security got the kit, we got two things out of the whole kit, so the rest we just had to make do and explain to, can't remember who the tutor was for that, can you remember who the tutor? But we just had to explain, "Well look, I cannot get a bunch of keys" So we would hypothesise a lot about what we would do with our bunch of keys and how to measure the moon at night and that sort of stuff and it was challenging, but good fun.