

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: **Harry Donaghy**

Interviewed by: **Jenny Meegan**

Date of interview: **18/05/2012**

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.

In some cases, interviewees may have made changes to the transcript.

Personal/sensitive information regarding individuals who may be living has been removed from transcripts where necessary.

Copyright and Permissions

Rights owned or controlled by The Open University.

All use of this transcript in part or in full requires prior permission from The Open University Archive.

Please contact university-archive@open.ac.uk to discuss possible use of the content.

Harry Donaghy Clip

Clip title: Sharing books and building a library

Duration: 00:02:25

Clip start point in full interview: 00:09:37

Clip end point in full interview: 00:14:00

Interview identifier: 013_S_01

Description:

Harry Donaghy describes his love of books, building a library and sharing books, including Open University books, with other people in the Official IRA Compound (the Maze and Long Kesh Prison) in the late 1970s.

Transcript:

But one of the first things my parents, my father-in-law, had sent in was some of the books I hadn't got around to reading. So they were sent in to me week by week and again it was, the first time sitting in the appropriate times, there were other activities going on in the Compounds but I got the opportunity to read. The first book I remember was 'The Ragged Trousered Philanthropist'. My father had George Bernard Shaw and stuff like that. Now even back then, Jenny, the people that were there before me in the Officials Compound, [the Official IRA Compound] they were starting to put together, well at the time now, Jenny, I can be corrected on this but the study hut as it was called in our Compound, both in Compound 3 and in Compound 2, they were fairly well stocked with a range of books and subjects and so forth and I had a wee bit of a fascination for myself that, I have got my own library here.

They would come into your cubicle with "Ah, I see you have got that. When you have finished, can I borrow that?" Or, "Harry, we are doing this, this is part of the OU course we are doing, here is an interesting module" On whatever, be it the Industrial Revolution or Economic theories of John Locke or whatever. All fascinating stuff, you know, and again now you needed to sort of acclimatise, unless and I didn't, I haven't met too many of them in my life time. I have never met anyone who could sit down with a volume of 'Das Kapital' and read it from beginning to end and not come out sort of shell shocked [laughs] at the end of it, you know.