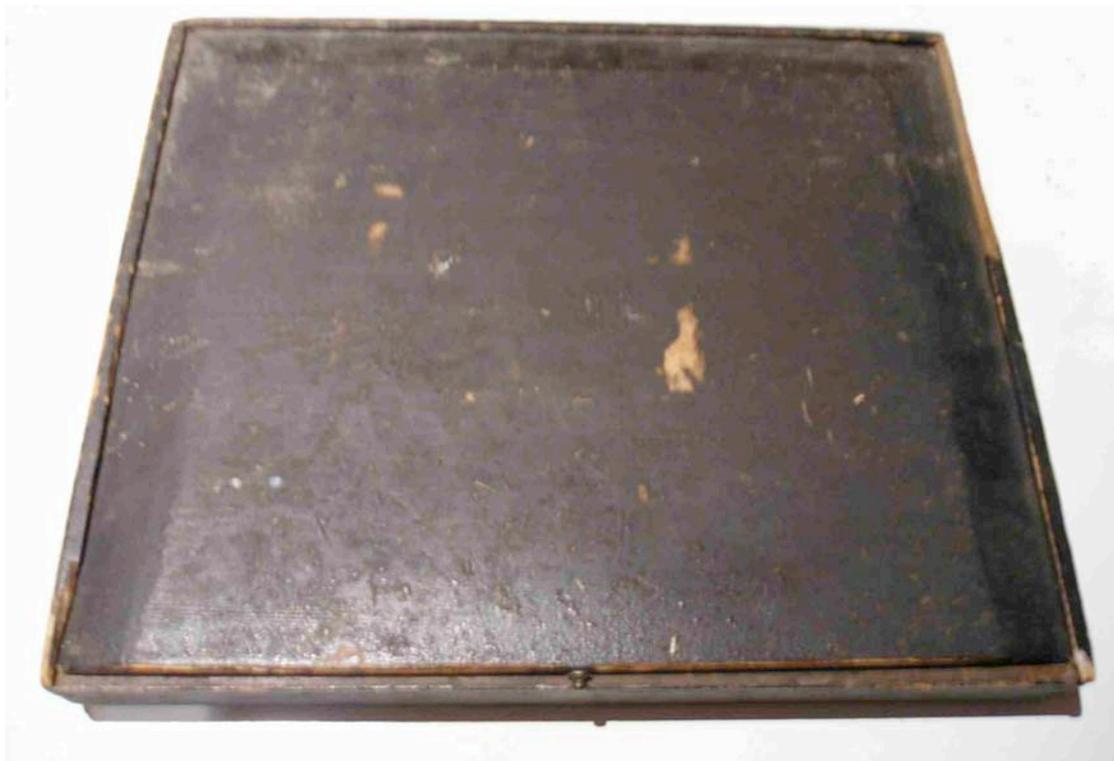


### **3.13 The O'Mealy Box**

Wilbert Garvin

Many years ago Seán Reid gave me a black box for safe-keeping. It was square-shaped and relatively narrow, with a sliding top.



It contained an assortment of drawings, patterns and notes of R.L. O'Mealy. At the 2007 reopening of the refurbished NPU headquarters I passed on this box, plus three of R.L's hand tools to NPU since I accepted that now was the time when they would be safe and could be used for display purposes in conjunction with the lathe and reamers that had been donated by Ken McLeod and myself a number of years ago.



## O'Mealy Box contents

The contents of the box gives an insight into the workings of O'Mealy. Much of his work involved restoring pipes and he identified the pipes that he was working on by the name of the owner. Some of these I know about, but many of them are unknown to me. They could be the starting point to finding out more about these players and where their pipes are now.

Boyce's chanter - hole positions

Boyd's chanter - unnamed big bass regulator

Bunting<sup>1</sup> - regulator

Congdon's - key jaws - Taylor style

Congdon's - bass regulator - detailed drawing

Congdon's middle regulator - hole positions and diameters - 2 drawings

Congdon's bellows outlet - pattern for leather

Congdon's bass drone - details of measurements

Connery's chanter - hole positions, measurements etc. + reed cap

Coyle's regulator - details

Coyle's bass regulator - 2 drawings

Cramsie - middle regulator

Delap<sup>2</sup> - bag measurements

Delap - regulator

George Farrar's bellows<sup>3</sup> - clapper pattern - dated 11 April 1929

George (presumably Farrar) - bag pattern

Gildas' middle regulator<sup>4</sup> - for pipes with 17" chanter - details

Gildas' middle regulator - 17 & 7/8"

Gildas' bass regulator

Gildas' small regulator - 13&1/8" - holes positions, measurements etc.

Details of Br. Gildas' chanter

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<sup>1</sup> This is Frank Bunting Senior – see Paddy Maxwell entry in article “**3.14 O'Mealy Pupils**” written by Frank Junior who now has possession of his father's Mealy pipes.

<sup>2</sup> See Miles Delap entry in article “3.14.3 O'Mealy Pupils”

<sup>3</sup> George Farrar was married to R.L.'s sister Letitia

<sup>4</sup> Brother Gildas, was a De La Salle Brother whose real name was Patrick O'Shea. He was a native Irish speaker from Kerry. He was a well known figure in the piping world, was a friend of R. L. and a regular visitor to his house in Belfast.

Haugh's ordinary bass (Taylor)

Hollywood's top-piece for chanter

Hollywood's bag - details on Postcard

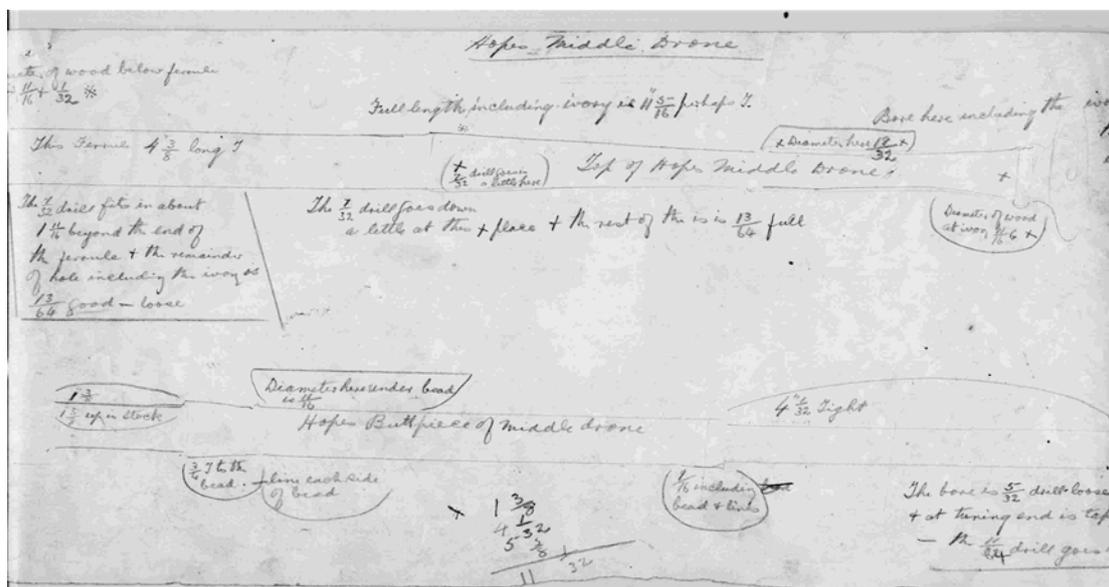
Hope's (William Hope) tenor drone - butt-piece and tuning piece

Hope's middle drone - butt-piece and tuning piece

Hope's bass drone - tuning piece

Hope's middle regulator

Note on Hope's regulator



Miss Johnston's (Netta Jane Johnston - Carnlough) leather pattern for outlet from bellows (on paper dated 1925)

Miss Johnston's bag - pattern

McCleary's bag - measurements V.T.B.C.? - 2 drawings

McKay - (fiddle-maker, Carnlough) - bag pattern

McKay's bellows pattern

Maher's bass regulator - details

Maher's bass regulator showing length of keys

Bag pattern - Ned's bag

Neill's big drone - butt piece and tuning piece - 2 drawings

Neill's bass regulator

Neill's middle regulator - key details (2)

Neill's big bass regulator - details (2 sides of paper)

Neill's big bass - details of holes - another of Neill's large bass

Neill's middle regulator

Neill's big drone - butt-piece - hole drillings (in notebook)

O'Mangon's top-piece (chanter)  
 O'Mangon's bag - pattern  
 O'Mangon's chanter - details (in notebook)

O'Neill's American regulator

Own stuck bag - 1976

Peter's pipes - details of drones and regulators

Rowsome chanter - details of hole positions

Ryan - bellows leather pattern  
 Ryan's middle regulator - 2 drawings  
 Ryan's middle regulator - hole positions (2 off)  
 Ryan's big drone  
 Ryan's big drone - butt piece

Savage's buttpiece of big drone

Scanlon's chanter - details (in notebook)

Taylor's bass - ordinary  
 Taylor's bass regulator

Tootal's chanter - details - including top-piece  
 Tootal's bass regulator  
 Tootal's big bass regulator - hole positions  
 Tootal's big bass regulator - details  
 Tootal's ordinary bass regulator  
 Tootal's middle regulator - hole positions  
 Tootal's boxwood bass regulator  
 Tootal's ordinary boxwood bass - hole positions, sizes  
 Tootal's tenor drone - butt-piece  
 Tootal's middle drone - butt-piece  
 Tootal's bag - pattern

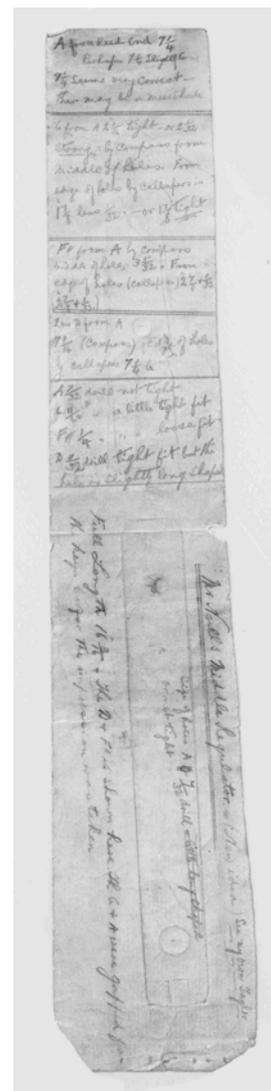
Ward's E regulator

Big bass - key patterns (Taylor style)

Pattern for own bellows (outlet) dated Sept.1940)

Another 3 patterns for bellows outlet - no names

Bag pattern - Kenna pipes (before and after sewing)



Pattern for arm pad on bellows - unlabelled

Pattern for bellows leather - unmarked

Note on own pipes

3 Bag patterns - unlabelled

2 bellows leather patterns - unlabelled

bellows leather pattern labelled Father's?

Envelope (Taxes) containing regulator key patterns (Taylor style) for Hewitt's middle regulator; Neill's ordinary bass; Neill's bass; Coyle's A bass; Tootal's bass G (2); plus 4 unlabelled.

Template for drillings in butt-piece of bass drone (wrapped up by me to avoid damage).

### **O'Mealy Notebook**

Notebook containing assorted measurements plus names of tunes and the notes of the first bar - however not in O'Mealy's handwriting!

#### **Unpublished Airs:**

McParson's Farewell  
 The Little Devil's Waltz  
 The Lad that I love  
 The Lord of Mayo  
 My Love among the Roses  
 Carolan's Farewell  
 Farewell Inverness  
 Killycrankey  
 I long to see Old Ireland free  
 Miss Gregg  
 Over the Bridge  
 The Bush in Bloom  
 Take Her out and Air Her  
 Miss Multitude  
 Blackberry Blossom  
 Castle Kelly  
 Flatcaps Jane  
 The Wind that shakes the Barley  
 Miss Monaghan  
 Drousy Maggie



Lagan Slashers  
His of Slainstown (?)  
New Found Out  
Jenny Pickin' Cockles  
Follow us down to Carlow

**Hornpipes:**

The Liverpool hornpipe  
Flowers of Edinburgh  
The Cork Hornpipe  
The Sailor's hornpipe  
The Dublin Breakdown

**Reels:**

The Stoney Steps  
The Flogging Reel  
The Scholar  
The Bush in Bloom  
Bonnie Kate  
My Love among the Roses  
The Bright Star of Munster  
The Morning Star  
The Heathery Breeze  
What the Devil ails You  
Miss McLeod's reel  
The Shannon Breeze  
The Dublin Lasses  
The Green Fields  
The Fairy Dance  
Over the Bridge to Bessie

Unlabelled regulator drawings - Taylor style - possibly O'Mealy's own copy of Taylor.

Old(!) faded measurements etc. - small pages from a notebook perhaps

Letter -from Brother John (Johnny Mealy) plus reply from R. L.

Letter to Mr McCullagh 13 June 1912 (on back letter to Capt.O'Neill June 1912 - proof?)

Letter from D.McCullough 28 Feb.1912

Letter from D.McCullough 8 March 1912 - reply on back dated 11 March 1912  
Letter from John Southwell, Newry 1926.

Letter from Brother Gildas, Downpatrick, 1933.

Letter from Br. Gildas dated 11 Jan 1933 (photocopy)

Wilbert Garvin

Inch St.  
Downpatrick  
11th Jan. 33

Dear Mr. O'Mealy,  
I enclose the notice of  
Bantry Bay, just as I attempt to play it.  
When fixing the lower end of the  
big regulator, perhaps it would be better  
to shorten the wood a little (cut a little off)  
so that the ivory would go further up on  
it and the ~~the~~ brass circle would not look  
so broad.

I hope you will succeed in your experiment  
on the stock.

With every best wish to yourself and  
Mrs O'Mealy.

I am,  
Yours sincerely,  
Brother Gildas.

I am sending this letter to be posted in Belfast owing to stress & fear of delay.

7 Queen St  
Newry  
4<sup>th</sup> May 1926

Dear Mr O Mealey,

Received your letter regarding the Ustean Pipes material & make I would prefer the ebony or Dark Rose wood with the full & Complete set of Regulators.

You state in your letter that it is a long

Thanking you in anticipation  
Best Wishes

Yours Sincerely  
John Southwell

time since you played at a Concert in Newry. I'm sorry to say that all the Concerts that were held recently ~~were~~ of the modern & cheap variety, with practically little or no consideration given to our Native Songs or Music

Let me know about the price of Instrument I am writing about