17\textsuperscript{th} century Watermarks in the Genealogical Office MSS of the National Library of Ireland
Heraldic Manuscripts, NLI
• Ulster King of Arms founded in 1552
• Over 800 volumes part of NLI since 1987
Before and After Treatment

Blog posts on conservation project [here]
Watermark Case Study - GO MS 50

• ‘List of Peers, Baronets and Knights; c.1619 -1727’
• 157 folios
• 32 watermarks – 10 now online
Post/Pillar/Column Watermarks

Not dated
letters ‘MO’? (bf 25-27)

Not dated c. 1640
Letters ‘CDA’ (bf 41-43)

16 March 1639
Letters ‘CDA’ (f 235)

Not dated c. 1641
(folio 85)

Not dated c. 1633
Letters ‘GC’ (folio 155)

16 March 1639
Letters ‘PDR’ (bf 207-209)
Urn (1), flag (1)

Not dated c.1639 & 1641 (folio 191)
Letters ‘BCM’

1639 (folio 83, bf 191-193, 195-197, 199-201)
There is also a countermark (f191)
cross (1), cardinal’s hat (1), grapes (1)
Shield (3)

Not dated 1633? (folio 55)
Letters GD

Not dated c.1640s
(bf 171-177) ‘Coat of arms’

Not dated c.1641 (folio 267, 271-273, 269-275)
Paper trade into Ireland

Youghal c.1750. Detail of print from NLI ET D16
Paper trade into Ireland – Bristol records

1594/5 – 81 reams are recorded passing through Bristol port from La Rochelle in France to Ireland’s southern ports, via Bristol.

1601 - 179 reams of paper (including 38 reams of brown paper) from 7 English ports (Hinton, Berkeley, Milford Haven, Gatcombe, London and Westbury-on-Severn)
‘in paper in Dublin is very dear scant and bad’ 1590

Map noting Irish ports in 16th century (Flavin 2009)
Speed’s Map of Dublin 1610
Further Reading


Munter R. A Dictionary of the Print Trade in Ireland, 1550-1775


Gillespie R. Seventeenth century Dublin and their Books, 2005, Dublin City Public Libraries, Reading Ireland 2005


Flavin S. Bristol Port Book, Overseas, 1600/1. / ROSE, University of Bristol. 2009


Wheeler WG ‘The Spread of provincial printing in Ireland up to 1850’, in Irish Booklore Vol. 4 no. 1 1978 pp.7-19


Gaudriault R. Filigranes et autres caractéristiques des papiers fabriqués en France aux XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles, 1995
