




Research and enterprise

Representing the Shannon Scheme: electrical technology, modernisation and national identity in the Irish Free State, 1924-32

 As of July 2018 University of Brighton Repository is no longer updated. Please see our new repository at <http://research.brighton.ac.uk>.

O'Brien, Sorcha (2011) *Representing the Shannon Scheme: electrical technology, modernisation and national identity in the Irish Free State, 1924-32* Doctoral thesis, University of Brighton.



Text
Sorcha O'Brien PhD.pdf
Restricted to Registered users only
[Download \(17MB\)](#)

Abstract

This thesis considers the representation of the Shannon Scheme hydro-electric power station from 1924 to 1932, during the first Cumann na nGaedheal Government of the Irish Free State. The station was constructed by the German company Siemens and was the first large-scale building project carried out in the new state, starting in 1925. The semi-state Electricity Supply Board was formed by the Government to run the power station in 1927 and it began generating power in 1929, forming the basis for rural electrification after the Second World War.

- Item Type:** Thesis (Doctoral)
- Additional Information:** Copyright © and Moral Rights for this thesis are retained by the author and/or other copyright owners.
- Faculties:** Faculty of Arts > School of Humanities
- Depositing User:** LTS Systems
- Date Deposited:** 31 Jul 2014 09:29
- Last Modified:** 31 Jul 2014 09:29
- URI:** <http://eprints.brighton.ac.uk/id/eprint/12376>

Actions (login required)

[View Item](#)



Downloads

Downloads per month over past year

[Login](#)

Related links

[Information Services](#)

[Online Library](#)

[Contact Information](#)

[Publishers' policies](#)

[Research funders](#)

[Funders and Authors Compliance Tool](#)

[Google scholar](#)

[OAlster: search repositories worldwide](#)

[Download Statistics](#)



Contact us

University of Brighton Mithras House Lewes Road Brighton BN2 4AT

Main switchboard **01273 600900**

[Course enquiries >](#)

[Contacts directory >](#)

[Report a problem with this page >](#)



QUICK LINKS



INFORMATION FOR

The Shannon Scheme was officially opened on 22 July 1929. One of the largest engineering projects of its day, it was successfully executed by Siemens to harness the Shannon River. It was hugely important as it represented the largest foreign order received by a German company. For Siemens, the execution of the Shannon Scheme was the one single event that marked the reappearance of the firm on the world electrical scene following the gloom of the Great War and its painful aftermath. It remains as one of the major landmarks in the history of the company world-wide.[1]. Indeed apart from Germany, the Irish Free State government, in the absence of expertise at home, called on know-how also from various other countries. Consequently, the Irish Free State's

readjustment of its relationship with Britain took place in the context of the Commonwealth rather than in a bilateral sense (Keatinge, 1973). The City of London considered the Irish Free State to be a bad risk during the civil war while investors wanted to be sure that loans would be repaid on par with sterling as they feared the Irish pound might be devalued (Irish Times, 19 October 1923). Cosgrave was reluctant to look for British backing for a national loan so Finance