National Library of Ireland **News**

Nuacht Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann

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This is the first issue of the National Library of Ireland's *Newsletter*. The *Newsletter* will appear four times each year, in March, June, September and December. It is designed to inform staff and readers of new developments in the Library. The *Newsletter* will keep you up to date with all aspects of the Library's service, providing information on collection development and details regarding access to our collections, as well as introducing the staff responsible for the provision of services here.

The National Library of Ireland is in the process of major redevelopment and change. Through the *Newsletter*, we will be highlighting key aspects of the redevelopment programme as they arise.

I hope that you enjoy reading this and future issues of the *Newsletter* and I invite you to communicate any reactions, opinions or ideas that you have to the *Newsletter* editor, Colette O'Flaherty, or to myself.

Seo é an chéad eagrán de Nuachtlitir Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann. Foilseofar an Nuachtlitir ceithre huaire in aghaidh na bliana - Márta, Meitheamh, Meán Fómhair agus Nollaig. Tá an Nuachtlitir ann chun an fhoireann agus na léitheoirí a choimeád ar an eolas faoi imeachtaí reatha na Leabharlainne. Coimeádfaidh an Nuachtlitir ar an eolas tú faoi gach gné de sheirbhís na Leabharlainne - cuirfear faisnéis ar fáil faoi fhorbairt na mbailiúchán agus sonraí faoi rochtain a fháil ar na bailiúcháin againn, maille leis an bhfoireann atá freagrach as na seirbhísí a sholáthar anseo a chur in aithne duit.

Tá Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann i mbun athfhorbairt agus athrú mór a chur i gcrích. Tríd an Nuachtlitir, beimid ag leagan béime ar ghnéithe ríthábhachtacha den chlár athfhorbartha de réir mar a thagann siad ar aghaidh.

Tá súil agam go mbainfidh tú taitneamh as an Nuachtlitir a léamh agus tugaim cuireadh duit pé tuairimí nó smaointe a bheadh agat a chur in iúl don eagarthóir, Colette O'Flaherty, nó dom féin.

Brendan O Donoghue,
Director / *Stiúrthóir*

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Exhibitions / *Taispeántais*

The Library's exhibition on the life and times of Jonathan Swift - **Fair Liberty! was all his cry** - was opened by Ms. Síle de Valera, TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, on 29 July. The exhibition, which will run until 5 November, focuses primarily on the hitherto unexplored human side of Swift, including the many mysteries about his life and origins - who were his parents; what was the nature of his relationship with the two women in his life, Stella and Vanessa; was he married?

Much of the material in the exhibition comes from the Library's own collections, but important items have also been loaned from other institutions and private individuals here and abroad.

The exhibition was curated by **Bruce Arnold**, whose biography of Swift entitled '*Swift: an illustrated life*' was published recently.

The Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the islands, Ms. Síle de Valera, T.D., with Mr. Bruce Arnold at the opening of **Fair Liberty! was all his cry.**

Ba í Síle de Valera TD, An tAire Ealaíon, Oidhreachta, Gaeltachta agus Oileán, a d'oscail taispeántas na Leabharlainne faoi shaol agus ré Jonathan Swift - **Fair Liberty! was all his cry** - *an 29 Iúil. Leis an taispeántas seo, a leanfaidh ar aghaidh go dtí 5 Samhain, dírítear go príomha ar thaobh daonna Swift, taobh nár promhadh go dtí seo. San áireamh ansin tá na príomhrúin dhiamhracha faoina shaol agus a bhunadh - cérbh iad a thuismitheoirí, cén caidreamh a bhí aige leis an mbeirt bhan ina shaol, Stella agus Vanessa, agus an raibh sé pósta?*

Is as bailiúcháin na Leabharlainne féin a thagann an chuid is mó den ábhar sa taispeántas ach thug institiúidí eile agus daoine aonair in Éirinn agus thar lear míreanna tábhachtacha ar iasacht.

Ba é Bruce Arnold, ar foilsíodh a bheathaisnéis ar Swift, ar a dtugtar Swift: an illustrated life, le déanaí, a bhí i bhfeighil an taispeántais.

The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Mary Freehill, viewing the Wiltshire exhibition with Gráinne MacLochlainn, Curator, National Photographic Archive and Orla Fitzpatrick, Researcher, Women's History Project.

In the National Photographic Archive, the exhibition of Elinor Wiltshire's photographs continues to attract record numbers. Entitled '**If ever you go to Dublin town',** the exhibition provides vivid testimony of Elinor Wiltshire's skill as a photographer, her images already important records of a vanished Dublin. The exhibition also features her portraits of Patrick Kavanagh and the Bloomsday 1954 celebrations.

A selection of Elinor Wiltshire's photographs will be published shortly by the National Photographic Archive and the Women's History Project. (Further details are available from the National Photographic Archive, Meeting House Square, Temple Bar, Dublin 1. Tel. 6030 200. Fax. 6777 451. e-mail: photoarchive@nli.ie)

Sa Chartlann Náisiúnta Grianghrafadóireachta, tá slua nach bhfacthas a líonmhaireacht cheana fós ag triall ar an taispeántas de ghrianghrafanna de chuid Elinor Wiltshire. Faoin teideal ' **If ever you go to Dublin town',** *is fianaise ghlé é an taispeántas ar scil Elinor Wiltshire mar ghrianghrafadóir, bean a bhfuil a cuid íomhánna ina bhfianaise thábhachtach ar Bhaile Átha Cliath nach ann dó a thuilleadh. Tá a portráidí de Patrick Kavanagh agus de cheiliúradh Bloomsday 1954 mar chuid den taispeántas seo.*

Tá an Chartlann Náisiúnta Grianghrafadóireachta agus Tionscadal Staire na mBan chun rogha de ghrianghrafanna le hElinor Wiltshire a fhoilsiú sara fada.

Studentships in Irish History and Archival Studies / *Staidéarthachtaí i Stair na hÉireann agus i Staidéir Chartlannacha*

In August, the Library announced the award of the 1999-2000 Research Studentship in Irish History and the award of a new Archival Studentship, each valued at £10,000.

The 1999-2000 Research Student in Irish History is Mr. Stephen Ball. Mr. Ball has recently completed his doctoral thesis on *Policing the War: British Government policy towards political protest and agrarian crime in Ireland, 1879-91*. He will be attached to the Library's Department of Manuscripts for the period of his Studentship where he will work on the Clonbrock estate papers.

The Research Studentship in Irish History is offered in association with the Irish Committee of Historical Sciences. The 1998-1999 recipient of the award was Marie Coleman. During her Studentship here, Dr. Coleman completed work on the papers of Piaras Béaslaí. Dr. Coleman's detailed listing of the collection is now available for consultation in Library. The papers themselves may be consulted in the Manuscripts Reading Room. Photographs from the collection are housed in the National Photographic Archive.

Marie Coleman will deliver a lecture on Béaslaí's role in the Irish revolution to the National Library of Ireland Society during its 1999-2000 session.

The Library's Archival Studentship is a new award, offered in association with the Archives Department, University College, Dublin. The Studentship is intended for graduates who wish to gain experience in archival work preparatory to applying for the Diploma in Archival Studies in University College, Dublin. The first recipient of the award - for the year 1999-2000 - is Ms. Bernadette Walsh, a graduate in European Studies and French from the University College, Stockton-on-Tees (Durham University).

Mí Lúnasa, d'fhógair an Leabharlann dámhachtain Staidéarthacht Taighde 1999-2000 i Stair na hÉireann agus dámhachtain i gcomhair Staidéarthachta Cartlannaí nua, ar fiú £10,000 an ceann iad.

Is é an tUasal Stephen Ball Mac Léinn Taighde 1999-2000 i Stair na hÉireann. Tá an tUasal Ball tar éis a thráchtas dochtúireachta a chríochnú le déanaí ar a dtugtar 'Policing the War: British Government policy towards political protest and agrarian crime in Ireland, 1879-91'. Beidh an tUasal Ball bainteach le Roinn na Lámhscríbhinní sa Leabharlann le linn a Staidéarthachta, áit a mbeidh sé ag obair ar pháipéir eastáit Chluain Broc.

Déantar an Staidéarthacht Taighde i Stair na hÉireann a thairiscint i gcomhar le Coiste na hÉireann um Eolaíochtaí Staire. Ba í Marie Coleman a fuair an dámhachtain i 1998-1999. Le linn na staidéarthachta anseo, chuir an Dr. Coleman críoch le hobair ar pháipéir Phiarais Bhéaslaí. Is féidir féachaint ar liosta mionsonraithe an Dra. Coleman den bhailiúchán anois sa Leabharlann. Is féidir féachaint ar na páipéir féin i Seomra Léitheoireachta na Lámhscríbhinní. Tá grianghrafanna as an mbailiúchán sa Chartlann Náisiúnta Grianghrafadóireachta.

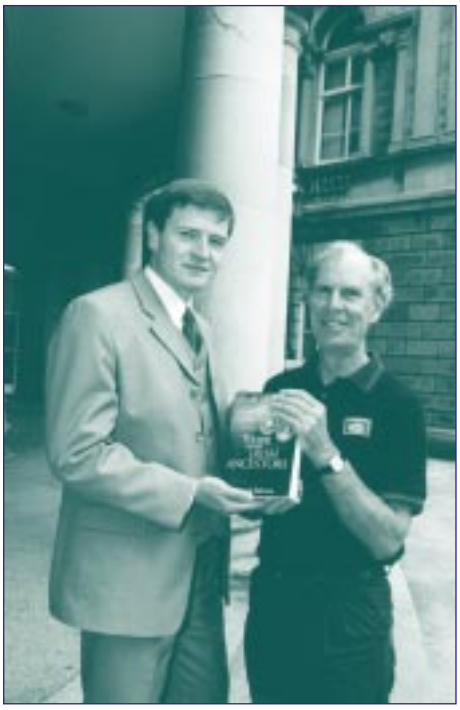
Tabharfaidh Marie Coleman léacht ar ról Bhéaslaí i réabhlóid na hÉireann do Chumann Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann le linn a seisiún 1999-2000.

Dámhachtain nua is ea Staidéarthacht Chartlannach na Leabharlainne, a thugtar i gcomhar le Roinn na gCartlann, Coláiste na hOllscoile, Baile Átha Cliath. Tá an Staidéarthacht ann le haghaidh iarchéimithe ar mian leo taithí a fháil ar obair chartlainne mar ullmhúchán d'iarratas ar an Dioplóma i Staidéir Chartlannacha i gColáiste na hOllscoile, Baile Átha Cliath. Is í an chéad duine a bhfuil an dámhachtain bronnta uirthi ná Bernadette Walsh, iarchéimí i Staidéir Eorpacha agus Fraincis ón gColáiste Ollscoile, Stockton-on-Tees (Ollscoil Durham).

Piaras Béaslaí papers / *Páipéir Phiarais Bhéaslaí*

Piaras Béaslaí (1881-1965), a prominent figure in the Irish Volunteers, and in the Gaelic League, is best known for his biography of Michael Collins, '*Michael Collins and the Making of a New Ireland*'. Comprising 67 boxes of documents, this is an extensive collection reflecting Béaslaí's personal life, his writings, his involvement in the Irish independence movement and in various organisations such as the Gaelic League and the old IRA. Documents from the 1913-1923 period cover the Irish volunteers, the Easter Rising, Béaslaí's positions as editor of the Irish Volunteers journal *An tÓglach* during the War of Independence, and as military censor during the Civil War. There are also some papers of Michael Collins, relating mainly to the post-Truce period. For those researching the Irish language movement, the collection contains numerous documents and correspondence concerning the Gaelic League in Dublin and Liverpool. Aside from his biography of Collins, Piaras Béaslaí was a prolific writer in both English and Irish. His papers include drafts of his newspaper articles, poetry, drama and fiction.

Is fearr aithne ar **Phiaras Béaslaí** *(1881-1965), pearsa mhór in Óglaigh na hÉireann agus i gConradh na Gaeilge, as a bheathaisnéis ar Mhicheál Ó Coileáin, 'Michael Collins and the Making of a New Ireland'. Le 67 mbosca de dhoiciméid ann, is bailiúchán leathan é seo lena léirítear saol príobháideach Bhéaslaí, a chuid scríbhneoireachta, a rannpháirtíocht i ngluaiseacht neamhspleáchais na hÉireann agus in eagraíochtaí éagsúla - Conradh na Gaeilge agus Arm na Poblachta, mar shamplaí. I ndoiciméid ón tréimhse 1913-1923, clúdaítear Óglaigh na hÉireann, Éirí Amach na Cásca, poist Bhéaslaí mar eagarthóir ar irisleabhar Óglaigh na hÉireann, An tÓglach, le linn Chogadh na Saoirse, agus mar chinsire míleata le linn an Chogaidh Chathartha. Tá páipéir ann freisin faoi Mhicheál Ó Coileáin, a bhaineann go príomha leis an tréimhse tar éis an tsosa cogaidh. Dóibh siúd atá ag déanamh taighde ar ghluaiseacht na Gaeilge, tá roinnt mhaith doiciméad agus comhfhreagrais ann faoi Chonradh na Gaeilge i mBaile Átha Cliath agus i Learpholl. I dteannta bheathaisnéis an Choileánaigh, ba scríbhneoir raidhsiúil é Piaras Béaslaí i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla araon. Tá dréachtaí i measc a chuid páipéar d'altanna nuachtáin, d'fhilíocht, de dhráma agus d'fhicsean.*



Mr. Brendan Whiting of Sydney, Australia (right) - the 10,000th visitor to the Library's Genealogy Service - with Senior Library Assistant, Bernard Devaney.

The Genealogy Service / *An tSeirbhís Ginealais*

Just one year after opening, the Library's Genealogy Service welcomed its 10,000th visitor on 29 June 1999 - Mr. Brendan Whiting of Sydney, Australia - and numbers using the Service continue to rise steadily. The Genealogy Service has been a hugely successful feature of overall Library services. It is freely available to all personal callers to the Library, offering them the opportunity to discuss their family history research with professional genealogists and experienced Library staff. Relevant finding aids are on open access and a series of specially devised information panels may be consulted. As the Library's current building programme progresses we hope to expand this valuable service further.

Aon bhliain amháin tar éis a hoscailte, chuir Seirbhís Ginealais na Leabharlainne fáilte roimh an 10,000ú cuairteoir an 29 Meitheamh, 1999 - An tUasal Brendan Whiting as Sydney, An Astráil. Is gné de sheirbhísí na Leabharlainne í an tSeirbhís Ginealais a bhfuil éirithe thar cionn léi ar fad. Tá sí ar fáil do gach duine a bhuaileann isteach sa Leabharlann agus tugtar an deis do dhaoine leis an tSeirbhís a gcuid taighde ar stair a muintire a phlé le ginealeolaithe gairmiúla agus le foireann na Leabharlainne a bhfuil taithí acu. Tá rochtain oscailte ar fáil ar áiseanna tóraíochta oiriúnacha agus is féidir féachaint ar phainéil faisnéise shaindeartha. De réir mar a théann clár tógála reatha na Leabharlainne ar aghaidh, tá súil againn an tseirbhís luachmhar seo a leathnú tuilleadh.

The Genealogy Service is open Monday-Friday: 10am to 5pm and Saturday: 10am to 1pm.

NEWSPLAN

The **NEWSPLAN** project originated in the mid-eighties as a co-operative project for the preservation of newspapers in Ireland and the United Kingdom. The aim of **NEWSPLAN** Ireland is to preserve newspapers through a microfilming programme that protects hardcopy holdings while making the content readily available to the public.

With the opening of the Library's new Technical Services Building, work on **NEWSPLAN** Ireland is in full swing. Acting on the recommendations of the *Report of the NEWSPLAN Project in Ireland*, we are concentrating on retrospective filming of newspaper files according to the priority status allocated in the *Report*. Our aim is to provide a high quality product that reaches recognised preservation standards. Great emphasis is placed on the preparation of material for microfilming, and all films undergo a rigorous quality control process. It is intended also to purchase microfilm of some Irish titles from the British Library to fill gaps in our collections or to replace seriously damaged hardcopy files.

For more information on the **NEWSPLAN** Project and National Library of Ireland microfilming services, contact the Microfilm Unit, National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. (Tel. (01) 6030349; Fax (01) 6030288).

Ba i lár na n-ochtóidí a tháinig tionscadal NEWSPLAN chun cinn mar thionscadal comhoibritheach chun nuachtáin a chaomhnú in Éirinn agus sa Ríocht Aontaithe. Is é an cuspóir atá le NEWSPLAN ná nuachtáin a chaomhnú trí chlár micreascannánaithe lena ndéantar na cóipeanna páipéir a chosaint ach ag an am céanna rochtain éasca ar a bhfuil iontu a chur ar fáil don phobal.

Le hoscailt Fhoirgneamh Seirbhísí Teicniúla nua na Leabharlainne, tá an obair ar NEWSPLAN faoi lán seoil. Ag gníomhú dúinn ar mholtaí Thuarascáil Thionscadal NEWSPLAN in Éirinn, is ar scannánú siarghabhálach comhad nuachtán atáimid ag díriú, de réir an stádais tosaíochta a thugtar sa Tuarascáil. Is é an aidhm atá againn ná táirge ardchaighdeáin a sholáthar a bheidh de réir caighdeán aitheanta caomhnaithe. Leagtar béim mhór ar ábhar a ullmhú don mhicreascannánú, agus cuirtear gach scannán faoi phróiseas dian chun an caighdeán a rialú. Tá sé ceaptha micreascannán a cheannach de roinnt teideal Éireannach ó Leabharlann na Breataine chun bearnaí a líonadh sna bailiúcháin s'againne nó le cur in ionad comhad páipéir atá i ndroch-riocht ar fad.

Parish Records on Microfilm / Cláir Pharóiste ar Mhicreascannán

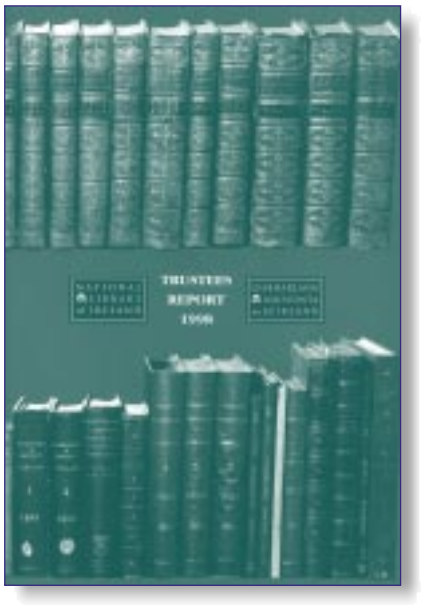
During 1998, with the kind co-operation of the Reverend Administrator, the Library was able to microfilm the registers of the Pro-Cathedral parish in Dublin for the years up to 1895. These registers, like the other microfilm registers held by the library, constitute an invaluable source of information for family history researchers.

With the active co-operation of local clergy, the Library is continuing its programme of filming those Dublin registers not already on film. Work on the registers of Haddington Road parish is almost completed and we hope to make the films available to researchers over the coming weeks.

Le linn 1998, le caoinchomhar an Riarthóra Oirmhinnigh, bhí ar chumas na Leabharlainne micreascannánú a dhéanamh ar chláir pharóiste na Leas-Ardeaglaise i mBaile Átha Cliath do na blianta suas go dtí 1895. Is foinse luachmhar faisnéise do lucht taighde staire teaghlaigh iad na cláir seo, ar nós clár micreascannáin eile atá ag an Leabharlann.

Le comhoibriú gníomhach na cléire áitiúla, tá an Leabharlann ag leanúint ar aghaidh le scannánú na gclár sin i mBaile Átha Cliath nach bhfuil ar scannán fós. Tá an obair ar chláir pharóiste Bhóthar Haddington beagnach críochnaithe agus tá súil againn go mbeidh na scannáin á gcur ar fáil againn do lucht taighde sna seachtainí atá romhainn.

Trustees Report 1998/*Tuarascáil na nIontaobhaithe 1998*



The Report of the Library's Council of Trustees for 1998 was published at the beginning of August. For those of you who have not already seen the Report, the following are among the highlights of last year's developments:

- Total funds provided to meet the operating costs of the Library during the year came to £3,203,000, an increase of more than £720,000 or 29%, on the 1997 figure. In addition, nearly £900,000 was spent on capital works.
- The Library's new Photographic Archive in Temple Bar opened its doors to the public for the first time in late October; the Archive houses a collection of some 300,000 images, ranging from topographical scenes to studio prints, and from political events to early tourist photographs.
- The extended opening hours introduced at the main Reading Room towards the end of 1997 continued in operation and the lunchtime closure of the Manuscripts Reading Room was finally done away with.
- The new Technical Services Building was fully commissioned early in the year and now houses a new bookbinding unit, the conservation unit and a newspaper microfilming facility.
- Gifts and donations of important manuscript material included Sheehy Skeffington papers, the papers of Brendan Corish, Loftus of Mount Loftus papers, Dr. J.B. Lyons literary papers and the records of the firm of SS & E Reeves & Sons, Solicitors. The Library is particularly indebted to Mr. John Ronan for his generous donation of the 16th century Nugent Manuscript An Duanaire Nuinseannach.

Foilsíodh Tuarascáil Chomhairle Iontaobhaithe na Leabharlainne do 1998 i dtús mhí Lúnasa. Daoibhse nach bhfuil an Tuarascáil feicthe agaibh fós, bhí na nithe seo a leanas ar bhuaiceanna na bliana anuraidh:

- *Ba é an maoiniú iomlán a cuireadh ar fáil chun costais feidhme na Leabharlainne a chlúdach le linn na bliana ná £3,203,000, méadú de bhreis 's £720,000 nó 29% ar fhigiúr 1997. Ina theannta sin, caitheadh suas le £900,000 ar oibreacha caipitiúla.*
- *D'oscail Cartlann Grianghrafadóireachta nua na Leabharlainne i mBarra an Teampaill a doirse don phobal don chéad uair, deireadh mhí Dheireadh Fómhair. Tá suas le 300,000 íomhá sa Chartlann, ó radharcanna tíre go priontaí stiúideo, agus ó imeachtaí polaitíochta go luathghrianghrafanna turasóireachta.*
- *Leanadh ar aghaidh leis na huaire oscailte leathnaithe a tugadh isteach ag an bpríomhSheomra Léitheoireachta i dtreo dheireadh 1997 agus cuireadh deireadh le dúnadh Sheomra Léitheoireachta na Lámhscríbhinní ag am lóin faoi dheireadh.*
- *Deineadh coimisiúnú iomlán ar an bhFoirgneamh Seirbhísí Teicniúla nua go luath sa bhliain agus tá aonad ceangail leabhar, an t-aonad caomhnaithe agus áis micreascannánaithe nuachtán anois ann.*
- *Ar na bronntanais agus na tabhartais d'ábhar tábhachtach lámhscríbhinne a tugadh don Leabharlann, bhí páipéir Sheehy Skeffington, páipéir Bhrendan Corish, páipéir Loftus as Mount Loftus, páipéir liteartha an Dra. J.B.Lyons agus taifid an ghnólachta SS & E Reeves, Aturnaetha. Tá an Leabharlann faoi chomaoin mhór ag John Ronan as a thabhartas fial - Lámhscríbhinn na Nuinseannach den 16ú haois, An Duanaire Nuinseannach.*

Copies of the 1998 Report are available from the Library shop. Price £2.00.

National Library of Ireland Society/*Cumann Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann*

Gerard Long, Honorary Secretary of the National Library of Ireland Society, advises that the Society is in the process of finalising the programme of lectures for 1999-2000. Speakers during the year will include Bruce Arnold, Professor Marianne McDonald, Dr. Margaret Ó hÓgartaigh, Michael Longley, Dr. Marie Coleman, Dr. Peter Harbison and Robert Monks. The finalised programme will issue to members of the Society in early October.

Leaflets outlining the history and objectives of the NLI Society are available from the Library. Completed applications for membership can be forwarded to Mr. Gerard Long, Honorary Secretary, NLI Society, c/o National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Deir Gerard Long, Rúnaí Oinigh Chumann Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann, go bhfuil an Cumann ag cur bailchríoch faoi láthair lena chlár léachtaí do 1999-2000. Ar na cainteoirí a bheidh ann le linn na bliana, beidh Bruce Arnold, an tOllamh Marianne McDonald, an Dr. Margaret Ó hÓgartaigh, Michael Longley, an Dr. Marie Coleman, an Dr. Peter Harbison agus Robert Monks. Eiseofar an clár críochnaitheach do bhaill an Chumainn i dtosach Dheireadh Fómhair.

Tá bileoga, ar a gcuirtear síos ar stair agus ar chuspóirí an Chumainn, ar fáil ón Leabharlann. Is féidir iarratais chomhlánaithe ar bhallraíocht a chur ar aghaidh chuig Gerard Long, An Rúnaí Oinigh, Cumann Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann, f/ch Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann, Sráid Chill Dara, Baile Átha Cliath 2.

The Internet/*An tIdirlíon*

The Library's World Wide Web pages contain information about Library collections and services. The Web address is

http://www.heanet.ie/natlib/

Plans to make Library catalogues available on the Internet are well advanced. Retrospective cataloguing of the Printed Books card catalogue has been completed and these records, together with records which are already available on the Library's OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) will be made available online to external users. Digitised images from the Library's photographic and prints and drawings collections will also be accessible.

Tá faisnéis faoi bhailiúcháin agus seirbhísí na Leabharlainne le fáil ar leathanaigh Ghréasáin Domhanda na Leabharlainne. Is é an seoladh ná

http://www.heanet.ie/natlib/

Táthar ag déanamh dul chun cinn leis na pleananna chun catalóga na Leabharlainne a chur ar fáil ar an Idirlíon. Tá catalógú siarghabhálach de chatalóg chártaí na Leabhar Clóite curtha i gcrích agus cuirfear na taifid sin, i dteannta taifead atá ar fáil cheana féin ar OPAC (Catalóg Rochtana Poiblí Ar Líne) na Leabharlainne, ar fáil ar líne d'úsáidirí seachtracha. Beidh rochtain ar íomhánna digitithe as bailiúcháin ghrianghrafadóireachta agus priontaí agus líníochtaí na Leabharlainne freisin.