

# NEWS

Number 21: Autumn 2005

National Library of Ireland  
NUAHT Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann

This photograph of the Five Lamps, Arniens Street, Dublin was taken by Elinor Wiltshire in 1964.



The National Library of Ireland is proud to join with NUI Maynooth and Boston College's Centre for Irish Programmes in hosting a series of lectures linked to the new Certificate in Dublin Studies offered by the two universities.

The course will offer a uniquely interdisciplinary view of Dublin city, bringing together distinguished scholars from many fields in a series of four modules that explore the answers to key questions:

- Where are we? The place
- Who are we? The people
- What do we do? Work, consumption, culture
- How do we look? The imagination

The Certificate includes a series of public lectures to be held in the Library's new seminar room in Kildare Street.

The series of 16 public lectures begins this Autumn and continues for a number of months. Lectures will be held on Tuesday evenings, starting at 6.30pm, and will address each of the course themes. Topics range from Viking Dublin to the growth of suburbia, from the Huguenots to the Chinese-Irish community, from Guinness's Brewery to the IFSC, from the city sung in street ballads to that depicted in cinemas. The lectures are free to National Library users; however, places are limited and early booking is advised.

Students registered for the Certificate will combine attendance at the lecture series with intensive seminar discussions held in the Centre for Irish Programmes, which is located in St Stephen's Green, Dublin. They will also participate in field trips and supervised research. Completion of the Certificate will result in a number of undergraduate credits, potentially usable towards a Bachelor of Arts degree from NUI Maynooth.

Further information on the lecture series and application details for the Certificate course may be obtained from: Dr Mark Maguire, Dublin Studies, Department of Anthropology, NUI Maynooth, Co Kildare. Tel.: (01) 708 3984, email: Mark.H.Maguire@nuim.ie or log on to [www.nuim.ie](http://www.nuim.ie)

The Certificate course fee is 900 and the closing date for applications is 16 September 2005. See also the Library's website [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie) for a list of the Dublin Studies public lectures.

# National Library Events

## Hans Christian Andersen exhibition



Gerard Danaher SC, Chairperson of the Board of the National Library, speaking at the reception to mark the official opening of *Once Upon a Time*, an exhibition to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Hans Christian Andersen. The exhibition opened to the public on 10 June for a six-week run.

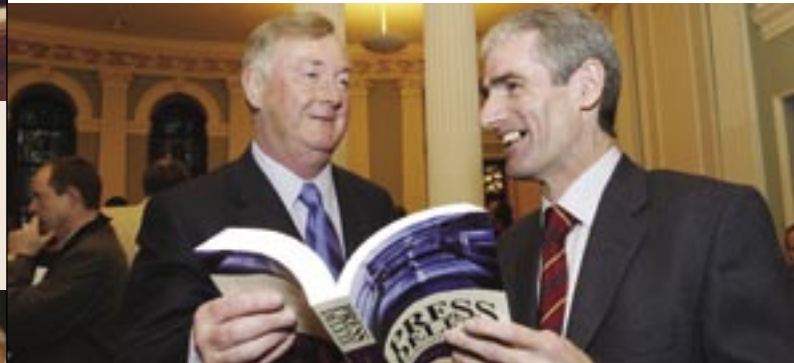
## National Photographic Archive exhibition opening

Sara Smyth, Curator of the National Photographic Archive is photographed here with Aongus Ó hAonghusa, Director of the National Library, and Professor Cormac Ó Gráda, School of Economics, UCD who launched the *Regeneration: The West of Ireland 1892-1914* exhibition at the National Photographic Archive on 20 June.



## 'Press Delete'

Former *Irish Press* journalist Ray Burke chose the National Library as the venue for the launch of his book entitled *Press Delete*. He is photographed here with Mr John O'Donoghue, Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, who launched the book.



## Recollections of 1916 and its Aftermath

On 6 July, the Minister for Arts Sport and Tourism, Mr John O'Donoghue, TD, launched the latest work in the 'Irish Life and Lore' series. Entitled *Recollections of 1916 and its Aftermath – Echoes from History*, it comprises a book and a collection of 33 CDs. Each of the CDs contains recordings of interviews relating to the years 1916-1922; the interviewees are people who lived through that period, or their direct descendants. The accompanying book provides a brief synopsis of each of the 33 hour-long recordings and is also illustrated with photographs and other documentation relating to the period.

One of the distinguished guests at the launch was Lt Col (Retd) Sean Clancy, now aged 104. He is photographed here with author and journalist Nollaig O Gahdra (left) and Maurice O'Keeffe, who produced the series.



Award-winning children's books illustrator PJ Lynch at the opening of *Once Upon a Time*.



Mr KE Tygesen, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark reading from *The Ugly Duckling*, one of Hans Christian Andersen's classic fairy tales, to children from Fitzwilliam Montessori School who attended the reception to mark the official opening of *Once Upon a Time*.



## Children get creative at the Library

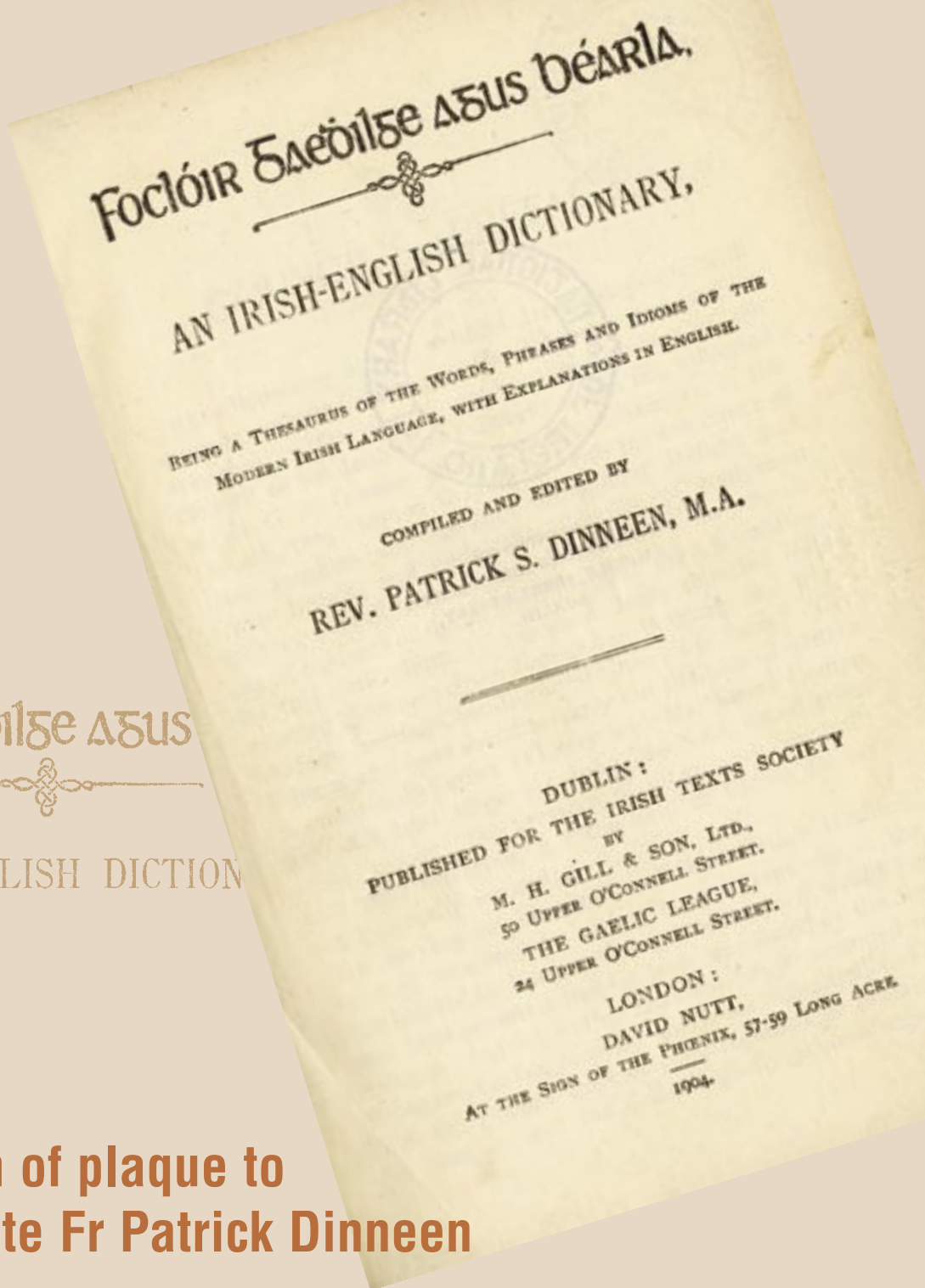
In tandem with *Once Upon a Time*, the temporary exhibition to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Hans Christian Andersen, the Library devised a programme of related events including storytelling and workshops for children.

Storytellers included Patrick Ryan, Liz Weir, Toby Kinsella, Nuala Hayes and Pat Speight, while RTÉ producer and actor Cathryn Brennan came along to read her favourite Andersen stories. The events, which were held on Saturday mornings, attracted large numbers of enthusiastic under tens – and their parents. In the afternoons, over 70 children came along to the four creative workshops facilitated by artist and bookbinder Sherra Murphy, storyteller Liz Weir and artist and puppet maker Margot Jones.

For those interested in James Joyce, in August the *My Ulysses* creative writing workshops were guided by writer Irene Graham. With the assistance of Sherra Murphy, participants in this three-day workshop left with a book of their own design and making.

The *My Ulysses* Family Trail, suitable for 8-12 year olds, continues throughout the duration of the *James Joyce and Ulysses* exhibition so bring your child along to do the puzzles, games and crosswords and perhaps finish the visit with a walk in Leopold Bloom's footsteps to buy a bar of lemon soap.

Look out for information on forthcoming children's events in the Library – either via the website ([www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie)) or *NLI News*.



Foclóir Gaedhilge agus  
AN IRISH-ENGLISH DICTIONARY

## Presentation of plaque to commemorate Fr Patrick Dinneen

Since its publication in 1904, Fr Patrick Dinneen's Irish-English dictionary (*Foclóir Gaedhilge agus Béarla*) has sold more copies than any other book relating to the Irish language.

To mark the publication of the first edition of the dictionary by the Irish Texts Society in 1904, the President of the Society, Pádraig Ó Riain recently presented a commemorative plaque to the Library where Fr Dinneen was one of its best known readers during the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. (His position as a figure of some importance during those years is further emphasised by James Joyce's reference to him in the episode of *Ulysses* set in the Library.)

The plaque has been placed on the desk that Fr Dinneen used – Desk No 23 in the Reading Room.

During the Easter Rising of 1916, and the destruction of the city that followed, all publishing material relating to the Dictionary, including the stock and printing plates, were destroyed in a fire. Long conscious of deficiencies in his earlier material,

Fr Dinneen immediately began work on a new revised edition of the Dictionary, a task which occupied him virtually full time until 1927.

In 1934, while working on a new edition of the 'Confession of St Patrick', he was taken ill in the National Library and died within a few days.

Such was the historic and continuing importance of his work, as well as the reputation he enjoyed during his lifetime, that he was among the very few 20<sup>th</sup> century Irish writers to receive a State funeral.

# Plaic á bronnadh chun an tAth Pádraig Ó Duinín a chomóradh

Tá níos mó cóipeanna díolta d'fhoclóir Gaeilge-Béarla an Ath. Uí Dhuinín (*Foclóir Gaedhilge agus Béarla*) ó foilsíodh é i 1904, ná aon leabhar eile a bhaineann leis an

Chun foilsíú an chéad eagrán den fhoclóir ag Cumann na Scríbeann nGaedhilge i 1904 a chomóradh, bhronn Uachtarán an Chumainn, Pádraig Ó Riain plaic chomórtha ar an Leabharlann a raibh an tAth. Ó Duinín ar dhuine de na léitheoirí is fearr aithne inti i mblianta tosaigh an 20ú aois. (Cuirtear tuilleadh béime ar an seasamh tabhachtach a bhí aige i rith na mblianta sin i dtagairt James Joyce dó sa chuid sin de *Ulysses* atá suite sa Leabharlann.)

Cuireadh an phlaic ar an deasc a bhíodh in úsáid ag an Ath. Ó Duinín – Deasc Uimh, 23 sa Seomra Léitheoireachta.

Loscadh an t-ábhar foilsitheoireachta ar fad a bhain leis an bhFoclóir le linn Éirí Amach na Cásca 1916 agus an scrios a rinneadh ar an gcathair ina dhiaidh sin, lena n-áirítear an stoc agus na clóphlátaí. Thuig an tAth. Ó Duinín le fada go raibh

nithe in easnamh ina chuid luath-ábhair agus chuaigh sé i mbun oibre láithreach ar leagan athbhreithnithe den Fhoclóir, obair a thóg a chuid ama ar fad beagnach go dtí 1927.

I 1934 agus é i mbun oibre ar eagrán nua de 'Faoistin Phádraig', bhuail tinneas é sa Leabharlann Náisiúnta agus fuair sé bás laistigh de chúpla lá.

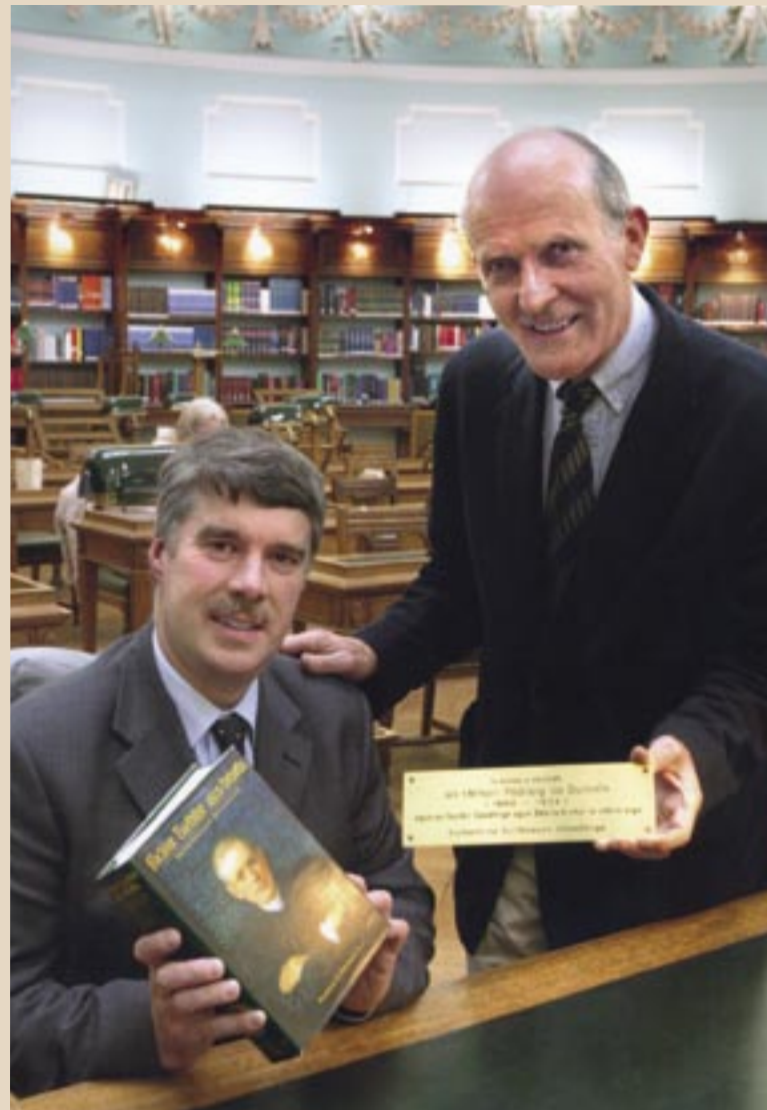
Bhí an oiread sin suime ó thaobh na staire ina chuid oibre i gcónaí, chomh maith leis an gclú a bhí air i rith a shaoil go raibh sé ar an líon beag de scríbhneoirí Éireannacha na 20ú aoise a raibh sochraid Stáit orthu.

President of the Irish Texts Society Professor Pádraig Ó Riain and National Library Director Aongus Ó hAonghusa pictured at Desk No 23 in the Main Reading Room, where the commemorative plaque is to be placed.



*Pádraic Ó Conchubhair's silhouette of Fr. Dinneen*

This silhouette of Fr Dinneen comes from the sometimes irreverent scrapbooks kept by National Library staff in the early decades of the twentieth century. The artist in question, Pádraic Ó Conchubhair, was dismissed from the Library for taking part in the Easter Rising of 1916, but reinstated after the establishment of the Free State in 1922.



# Children's literature and Irish women writers

*'The stories of childhood leave an indelible impression, and their author always has a niche in the temple of memory from which the image is never cast out...'*

**Howard Pyle (1853-1911), American children's illustrator and teacher**

Although children's literature in Ireland blossomed towards the close of the 20th century, several important writers wrote for children much earlier. These include some who were better known for their adult work, such as Maria Edgeworth and Lady Gregory, and also writers who were celebrated primarily for their work for young people, for instance Patricia Lynch, Eilis Dillon, and Máirín Cregan (whose papers were recently donated to the Library, see article in *NLI News* No 18).

Researchers and others who are interested in finding out more about the factors that may have influenced the writings of Maria Edgeworth, Patricia Lynch, Eilis Dillon and Lady Gregory will be rewarded by an examination of the extensive collections relating to them in the Library's Department of Manuscripts. The papers provide unique insights into their lives, preoccupations and methods of working.

The following is a brief summary of each of the relevant collections.

## A New and Unusual Children's Book



## THE Turf-cutter's Donkey

By PATRICIA LYNCH



With Illustrations by Jack B. Yeats

## Papers of Patricia Lynch and RM Fox

This collection contains the personal papers of Patricia Lynch (1898-1972) and of her husband RM (Richard Michael) Fox (1891-1969). The papers contain drafts and proof copies of books, articles and short stories by Lynch and Fox, and some unpublished material by both. There are letters from political and literary figures such as Maud Gonne McBride, Jack B Yeats and John B Keane, as well as some personal letters between Lynch and Fox. The notes and cuttings or articles by Lynch are of particular interest because of the new light they shed on her fictional writings.

After their marriage in 1922, Lynch and Fox settled in Glasnevin, Dublin. At this time Lynch was writing exclusively for children. With the publication of *The Turf-cutter's Donkey*, illustrated by Jack B Yeats, her popularity began to soar. Not only did her books sell well in Britain and the United States, they were also translated into many languages and transcribed into Braille. She received numerous awards for her writing, including a medal at the Tailteann Festival, 1947. She was also appointed to the Irish Academy of Letters.

See Manuscripts Collection List No 79 for details of the collection.


Draft cover for *The Turf-Cutter's Donkey* by Patricia Lynch, J.M. Dent & Sons, London. Call Number: Ms 40250-3

## Papers of Eilís Dillon

The collection of literary papers of Eilís Dillon was presented to the Library by her daughter and son, Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin and Cormac Ó Cuilleanáin. The collection, which is very comprehensive, comprises preparatory notes and drafts of her novels, short stories and plays, as well as texts of various lectures along with reviews and miscellaneous newspaper cuttings. Her books and stories for children include *The Lost Island* (1952), *The House on the Shore* (1955), *The Sea Wall* (1965), *The Island of Ghosts* (1989) and *The Children of Bach* (1992).

Eilís Dillon had a long association with children's literature. Prior to her death in 1994, she was a chairwoman of the Irish Children's Book Trust, which established the Eilís Dillon Award: this is presented to the author of an outstanding first children's book.

See Manuscripts Collection List No 41 for details of this collection.



Freshness in the air, and the new  
green. A young rabbit flopped  
the roadside at one place,  
full view, pressing his  
wet grass. Mine was the  
pony's hooves on the road and the wheel and the  
noise in the quiet. People came to their doors to watch  
me go by, and wondered, I suppose, why anyone would  
think of going to town on a Monday, when there was no market.  
As we passed by the place where Maud had lain  
yesterday, two days ago, the pony bucked a little and  
tried to shy across the road.  
"Remember what Billy told you," I said to him.  
He grew quiet again, but his ears kept  
twitching nervously for a long time afterwards. I wondered

## The Edgeworth papers

Born in Oxfordshire in 1768 to a family of Irish landowners from Co Longford, Maria Edgeworth, novelist and educationist, is best known as the author of *Castle Rackrent*, which has remained almost continuously in print since its publication in 1800. Enlisted by her father Richard Lovell Edgeworth to help with the education of her siblings, she was encouraged to write children's stories. These "moral fictions" were designed to inculcate proper virtues in young people. Values such as prudence, honesty, loyalty, and adherence to proper manners were emphasised in *Practical Education* (1798), *The Parents' Assistant* (1800), *Early Lessons* (1801) and *Moral Tales for Young People* (1801).

The stories were instantly popular, exerting considerable influence on educational practice in the first half of the 19th century and earning Maria a significant literary reputation. The Edgeworth papers contain correspondence between members of the Edgeworth family and their friends and associates relating to family matters, social life, work and estate business. They also include correspondence between Maria Edgeworth and, amongst others, Sir Walter Scott and William Rowan Hamilton.

See Manuscripts Collection Special List A 40 for details of this collection.

# Lady Gregory

The Galway-born playwright, folklorist and literary patron, Lady Augusta (Isabella) Gregory (1852-1932), is best known as a founder of the Abbey Theatre.

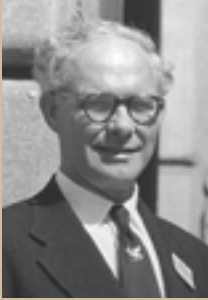
*Irish Legends for Children* (1883), *The Golden Apple: A Play for Kiltartan Children* (1916) and *The Kiltartan Wonder Book* (1916) are her best-known works for children. The Department of Manuscripts holds material relating to Lady Gregory in a number of collections. The Abbey Theatre papers (MS 21, 381) contain typescripts of many of her plays, while correspondence between Lady Gregory and literary, political and theatrical associates are found in the Sarah Purser papers (MS 10, 201), Synge papers (Packets 70-87) amongst others.

*"Muiréann playing to the little fishes" by Margaret Gregory, a colour proof frontispiece to The Golden Apple: A Play for Kiltartan Children by Lady Gregory, ca. 1916. (Call Number: PD 4200 TX 33)*





# Professor John J O'Meara Memorial Lecture series



Professor John J O'Meara  
(1915-2003)



The old Irish £5 banknote depicted Johannes Scottus Eriugena (c.810-877), the Irish philosopher who was one of Professor O'Meara's main research interests.

The first in a series of annual lectures in memory of the late Professor John O'Meara of UCD takes place at the National Library shortly.

The lectures have been made possible by an endowment from Professor O'Meara's family and will be given under the auspices of the National Library of Ireland Society.

The 2005 lecture, which will be held on 14 September, will be given by Dr Mary Beard, Professor of Classics at Cambridge University and Fellow of Newnham College, Cambridge.

Dr Beard is also classics editor of the *Times Literary Supplement*, and her published work includes *The Invention of Jane Harrison* (2000) and (with John Henderson) *Classical Art from Greece to Rome* (2001). She was co-curator of the recent exhibition 'From Ancient Art to Post-Impressionism' at the Royal Academy in London.

The subject of Dr Beard's lecture is 'The Roman Triumph', the civil ceremony and religious rite of ancient Rome held to honour the military commander of a successful foreign war and to display the spoils of his victory. Subsequent lectures in the series will similarly be on topics relating to the late Professor O'Meara's academic and other interests.

John J O'Meara (1915-2003) was Professor of Latin at UCD from 1948 to 1984. Born in Eyrecourt, Co. Galway, he joined the Society of Jesus in 1933 and, as a Jesuit scholastic, studied at UCD for his BA (1938) and MA (1939) in classics. In 1942 he went to Oxford University, where he took a doctorate.

He left the Jesuits in 1945, after doubts about his vocation had gradually taken hold. He subsequently wrote about this crisis in *The Singing-Masters* (1990), an elegant account of his early years and intellectual formation.

Joining UCD's Classics Department in 1945, O'Meara was an immediate success as a teacher. Later, as Professor of Latin, his teaching prowess was complemented by his skill in administering a department which, until the late 1960s, attracted

large numbers of students. Simultaneously, through a long series of scholarly publications, he established an international reputation as a classicist of the first rank. His research was concerned primarily with St Augustine of Hippo and with the ninth-century Irish philosopher, Johannes Scottus Eriugena. His early book *The Young Augustine* (1954) remains the standard work on the life of Augustine of Hippo up to his conversion.

As noted in his obituary in the *Irish Times*, John O'Meara 'was no stranger to controversy'. In the 1950s and early '60s, he challenged the old UCD establishment, led by its President and O'Meara's former mentor, Michael Tierney, on the proper governance of the college and the proposed move from Earlsfort Terrace to Belfield. He was an early advocate of merging UCD and Trinity College – thereby incurring a rebuke from the then Archbishop of Armagh, Cardinal D'Alton – and he was vocal in criticising Government policy on reviving the Irish language and the emphasis on teaching Irish in the schools.

Moreover, he campaigned – against his own professional interests – for dropping Latin as a compulsory requirement in UCD. He was ultimately successful in this. The erosion of the traditional position of classics in the education system meant that, during the latter part of his career, he had to 're-engineer' his department and its teaching programme in response to a sharp decline in student numbers.

Professor O'Meara died, just before his 88th birthday, on 12 February 2003. A selection of his papers has been donated to the National Library (MS 39,269). He was an active member of the National Library of Ireland Society for many years, and it is, therefore, fitting that the Society should host the lecture series in his memory which his family has so generously facilitated.

*Felix M Larkin is Hon Treasurer of the National Library of Ireland Society.*

## National Library of Ireland Society



National Library of Ireland Society members photographed at Stormont Parliament Buildings during the Society's annual outing to Belfast.

The National Library of Ireland Society is a voluntary support group, which aims "to assist and support the National Library in the maintenance and expansion of its services and the improvement and protection of its status as the National Library of Ireland." It arranges an annual programme of lectures on topics of Irish interest in a variety of subject areas including history, literature and current affairs; it organises an annual outing to historic houses and other venues, and it provides an opportunity for interested persons to support the Library at a crucial phase in its development.

On 15 June last, the Society held its Annual General Meeting, after which novelist, playwright and member of Aosdána, Dermot Bolger gave a talk entitled *A Life in Boxes*.

The Society's annual outing in June to Belfast was a great success. It included a visit to Stormont Parliament Buildings, a tour of locations associated with the writer CS Lewis - guided by Arthur Wilson of the CS Lewis Society - and a tour of Hillsborough Castle, which was guided by Molly Cleary.

One of the highlights of the Society's Autumn/Winter programme will be the inaugural event in the annual O'Meara Memorial Lecture series. This year's lecture, entitled *The Roman Triumph* will be given by Dr Mary Beard, Professor of Classics, Newnham College Cambridge. Admission to the event, which takes place on 14 September, is free of charge but will be by ticket only.

On 19 October Dr APW Malcomson, historian and former Director of PRONI (Public Record Office of Northern Ireland) will give a lecture entitled *The Clements Papers in The National Library of Ireland* and on 23 November the Society will host a lecture by Mr Justice Adrian Hardiman entitled *A Gruesome Case - James Joyce's Dublin Murder Trial*.

Details of upcoming Society lectures will be posted on the National Library website ([www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie)). Lectures begin at 7pm and take place in the Library's new seminar room.

### Membership Rates

Ordinary Membership	25 p.a.
OAP Membership	15 p.a.
Student Membership	10 p.a.
Corporate Membership (by invitation only)	1,000 p.a.

Members of the Society are entitled to a 10% discount in the library's new visitor facility, the Joly Tearoom, and in the Library shop.

### Contacting us

For further information on the NLI Society, please contact:

The Secretary, NLI Society, National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Email: [nlisociety@nli.ie](mailto:nlisociety@nli.ie)

### Address for correspondence:

Sandra McDermott, Hon Secretary,  
 National Library of Ireland Society, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

## Forthcoming exhibitions

*Irish Independent* centenary exhibition at the National Photographic Archive

In November 2004, Independent Newspapers (Ireland) Limited donated its entire photographic collection, comprising more than 300,000 images, to the Library. The material, which is of immense historical value, provides a record of all aspects of 20th century Irish life. On 20 October next, an exhibition to mark the donation, and to celebrate the centenary of the *Irish Independent*, opens to the public at the National Photographic Archive, Temple Bar, Dublin. The exhibition runs until 27 February 2006. Admission is free.

This photograph of Harry Boland, Michael Collins and Eamon de Valera was taken by an *Irish Independent* photographer at the first meeting of Dáil Éireann held at the Mansion House, Dawson Street, Dublin in 1919.



## Travelling exhibitions

During the month of September, the South Dublin County Council Library in Tallaght will host *Streets broad and narrow*, an exhibition of photographs focused on Dublin streetscapes - some vanished, others much altered - and the construction of the Fruit and Vegetable Market.



The images, which were recorded between 1888 and 1890, are part of the John's Lane and Mullinahack album. It was created by James Talbot Power (of the John's Lane Distillery family) for Spencer Harty, then Dublin City Engineer. The exhibition will be on view during library opening hours: Monday to Thursday 9.45am - 8.15pm; Friday and Saturday 9.45am - 4.30 pm.

To coincide with the exhibition, the County Library will hold a seminar entitled *Using visual materials in local studies* on Saturday 10 September. For further information on either event, contact Kieran Swords or Sile Coleman at 01-462 0073 or email [localstudies@sdblincoco.ie](mailto:localstudies@sdblincoco.ie).

## Library Late

The National Library will hold a series of monthly events from Winter 2005 into Summer 2006 aimed at re-introducing the Library to the people of Dublin as a venue that provides a forum for debate, but in a social and convivial atmosphere - much as it was in James Joyce's day in 1904.

The series will consist of live public interviews with Irish and international writers - both emerging and established - who have an interest in Irish writing and the Library's collections. The programme for each event will include an evening of music and refreshments in the Library's Joly Tearoom.

Admission to the events will be free of charge but will be by ticket only. For information, contact the National Library on 01-603 0200 or check [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie) for details from

Comments and suggestions on *NLI News* should be addressed to Avice-Claire McGovern. Email: [acmcgovern@nli.ie](mailto:acmcgovern@nli.ie)