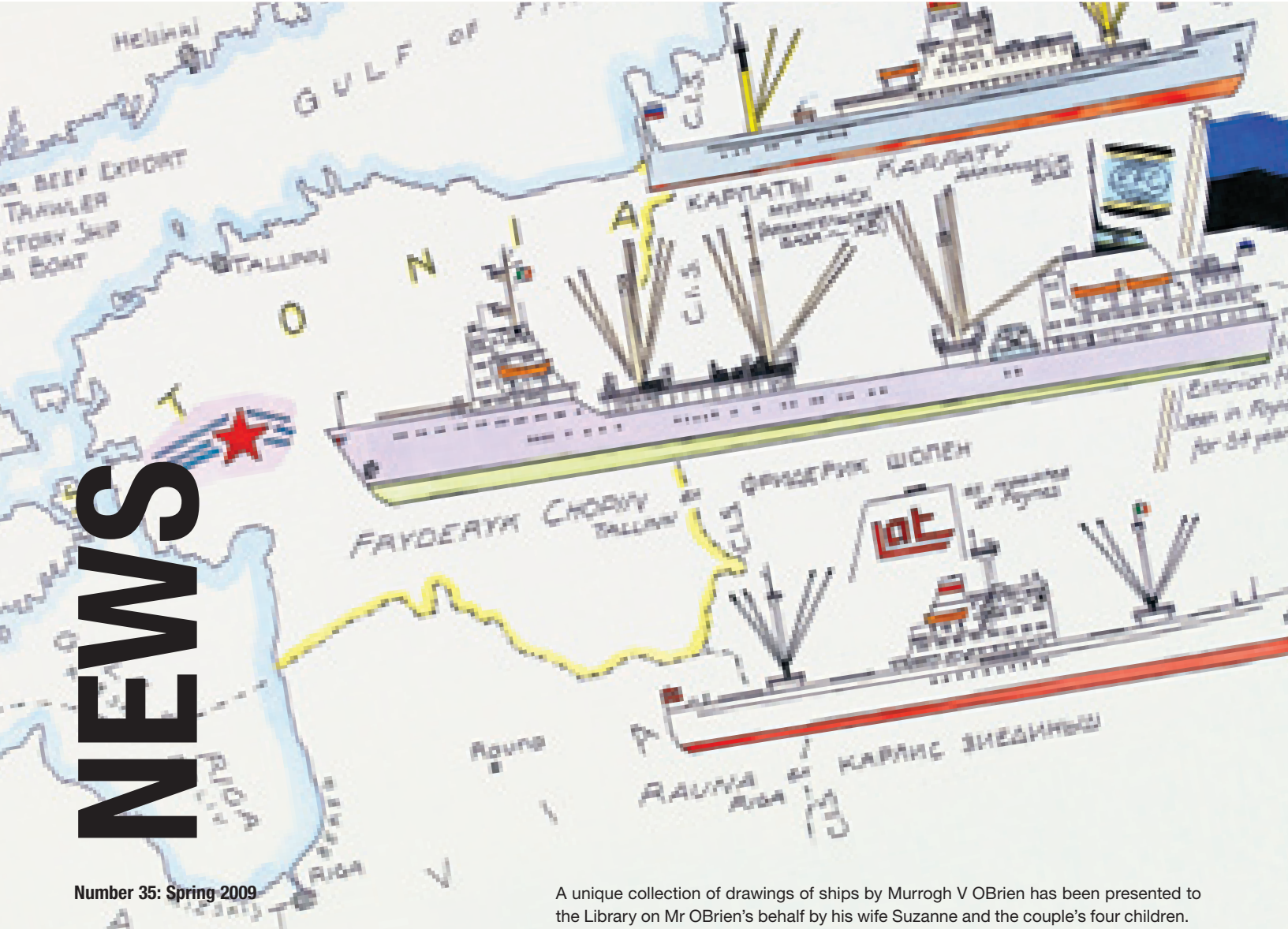


NEWS

Number 35: Spring 2009

National Library of Ireland
NUAChT Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann



A unique collection of drawings of ships by Murrough V O'Brien has been presented to the Library on Mr O'Brien's behalf by his wife Suzanne and the couple's four children.

Comprising some 900 sheets, with several ships per sheet, the drawings depict wonderful views of the port of Foynes – one of the West coast's most important ports – through three decades of development and change.

Born in 1919, Murrough V O'Brien's early childhood was spent on Foynes Island, Co Limerick. He subsequently took up residence there full time when he retired following a distinguished career as Director of the Geological Survey of Ireland and, later, as Managing Director of Tara Exploration and Development.

His home on the island faces the port of Foynes and thus provides unique views of shipping traffic into and out of the port. In 1971, at the suggestion of one of his daughters, Murrough V O'Brien began to draw pictures of the ships as he saw them from his house, or from the shore of the island. He drew all images to a scale of 1:900 (75 feet: 1 inch) using a fine-nib Rotring pen with black ink. He made copies of each drawing which he then hand watercoloured using the 'colouring notes' that he made for each ship; these included notes about the ship's funnel, colours of cabins, hull and flag. As well as drawing the ships, he documented their cargoes, provenance and destinations, and he then meticulously filed and indexed this information.

The Murrough V O'Brien 'Ship Pictures' Collection reflects Foynes' role in the economy of the region. The changing ships' cargoes mirrored changing times both nationally and internationally, with many of the drawings depicting the importance of beef exports and the need for fuel oil, animal feed and fertilizer imports. Other drawings provide records of regular visits to Foynes by the Irish Navy, Irish Lights vessels and Asgard II as well as providing records of national regattas and the arrival of foreign yachts. The collection constitutes a unique visual record of shipping in the port of Foynes. Indeed, it is unlikely that any other port in Ireland has been documented in this way. Its inclusion in the Library's collections will ensure its preservation and its availability to the public and researchers.

National Library Events

Library Late

The featured writers for the November and December ‘Library Late’ public interviews were Jonathan Powell and Brian Keenan. Jonathan Powell was interviewed by RTÉ broadcaster Tom McGurk; Brian Keenan was interviewed by *Irish Times* columnist Fintan O’Toole.



Jonathan Powell and interviewer Tom McGurk photographed in the Library's Reading Room on the evening of the November event.



Brian Keenan and *Irish Times* columnist Fintan O’Toole photographed in the Library's Front Hall prior to the December event.

Children’s Books Ireland

On 8 December, Children’s Books Ireland in association with the National Library of Ireland and Walker Books hosted an event in the Library’s Seminar Room to celebrate the work of PJ Lynch, one of Ireland’s most revered illustrators. The discussion on his life and work, led by former Director of the National Library of Ireland, Dr Pat Donlon, was followed by a lively Q&A session.



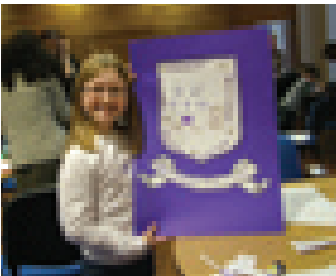
Dr Pat Donlon and PJ Lynch photographed during the interview at the December event.

Coat of Arms – family workshop

On 16 February the Library’s Education and Outreach staff organised a free workshop where children aged 7 to 14 were given the opportunity to learn about the art of heraldry and design their own imagined coat of arms.



Tiger Medide pictured with the design she produced for her family’s imagined coat of arms.



Cathy Mangan with the design she created at the workshop.

Fourth John J O’Meara Memorial Lecture

The fourth annual John J O’Meara Memorial Lecture took place on 11 February and was given by Mary Carruthers, Erich Maria Remarque Professor of Literature, New York University and Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford. The title of her address was *To Make a Library of my Memory: the Transmission and Invention of Knowledge in the Middle Ages*.



Mary Carruthers (left) is photographed here with Dominic O’Meara, Michael Ryan and Odile O’Meara.

Presentation of Murrogh V OBrien ‘Ship Pictures’ Collection



Photographed at the reception to mark the donation of the Murrogh V OBrien ‘Ship Pictures’ Collection to the Library were Mr OBrien’s wife and children, from left, Iseult Murphy, Charlotte Delamer, Mrs Suzanne OBrien, Sylvia Reynolds and Stephen OBrien.

Brendan O'Neill pictured at the launch of the *Dublin James Joyce Journal*.



Launch of *Dublin James Joyce Journal*

The Library recently launched a new annual publication, the *Dublin James Joyce Journal*, in association with the James Joyce Research Centre in University College Dublin.

Co-edited by Dr Luca Crispi and Professor Anne Fogarty, it will showcase the ongoing work of the UCD James Joyce Research Centre and especially concentrate on archival, historical, and textual research that draws on the rich resources of the Library. A particular feature of the journal is its use of illustrations, which in the main are derived from the invaluable collections at the Library.

The *Dublin James Joyce Journal* is the first Irish journal wholly devoted to the writing of Joyce. The inaugural issue encompasses work by Irish and Dublin-based scholars, including Christine O'Neill, Stephanie Rains, C  il  n Owens, Terence Killeen, Malcolm Sen, Anne Fogarty and Fintan O'Toole.

The contents of the first volume range across many different topics. Terence Killeen brings to light startling new information about the identity of Alfred H Hunter, the historical model for Leopold Bloom. Malcolm Sen and Fintan O'Toole both consider Joyce's depictions of the Orient and come to diverging conclusions about their underlying politics. Stephanie Rains, in an illuminating account of the historical Araby bazaar, illustrates how Joyce both draws on, and deviates from, reality.

Christine O'Neill profiles Niall Montgomery, one of Joyce's first Irish readers and one of his most astute commentators. C  il  n Owens persuasively argues that the centenary of the Robert Emmet rebellion is a hidden subtext of 'After the Race'. Anne Fogarty argues that Joyce deploys references to the familiar statues of Dublin – not just for satirical reasons but also in order to build on the utopian ideals linked with the development of public monuments at the turn of the twentieth century.

In a review published in *The Irish Times* in January 2009, Mr Justice Adrian Hardiman welcomed the launch of the *Dublin James Joyce Journal* stating that such a publication on Joyce in Ireland had been "awaited for decades". He commended the role played by the Library and the UCD James Joyce Research Centre in its production, and deemed that the journal will be of value to all readers of Joyce, both amateur and professional.

The *Dublin James Joyce Journal* is available in the Library's bookshop in Kildare Street as well as in selected bookshops including Books Upstairs and Hodges Figgis. Copies may also be ordered by emailing joyceresearchcentre@ucd.ie



Dr Anne Fogarty, Professor of James Joyce Studies, UCD; Professor Declan Kiberd, Chair of Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama, UCD; Aongus    hAonghusa, Director, National Library of Ireland, and Dr Luca Crispi, UCD School of English, Drama and Film, photographed at the launch of the *Dublin James Joyce Journal*.

POETRY ALOUD competition winners

The annual poetry speaking competition, POETRY ALOUD, which is open to all post-primary students on the island of Ireland is organised by the National Library of Ireland in association with Poetry Ireland.

The most recent event attracted almost 900 entries. Regional heats were held in schools in Killarney, Kilkenny, Galway, Laois, Monaghan, and Fermanagh. The generosity of school principals who agreed to host the regional heats proved vital to the overall success of the event – particularly as the number of entrants has continued to increase steadily each year since the competition was first launched as YEATS ALOUD in 2006.

To coincide with the Library's award-winning exhibition, *Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats*, Yeats featured as the prescribed poet in the finals, which were held in the Library's Seminar Room on 28 November 2008. The 27 finalists in three categories (Senior, Intermediate and Junior) spoke their poems before a panel of three judges comprising the Director of Poetry Ireland, Joseph Woods;

storyteller Liz Weir, and consultant researcher and scholar, Dr Stacey Herbert.

The Overall Winner and winner of the Senior Category was Samuel McGovern, St Andrew's College, Dublin. Liam O'Brien, Presentation Secondary School, Ballingarry, Co Tipperary won the Junior Category, and James Peters, St John the Baptist Community School, Hospital, Co Limerick won the Intermediate Category.

This year, for the first time, it was decided to acknowledge the runners-up in each category. They were Niamh McMenamin, St Columba's College, Stranorlar, Co Donegal (Junior); Esther Glenfield, Wesley College, Dublin (Intermediate), and Rosalie Edge, St Macnissi's College, Carnlough, Co Antrim (Senior).

The POETRY ALOUD competition will feature in the *Arts Lives* programme about the poet Thomas Kinsella to be broadcast on RTE One Television on the evening of Tuesday, 24 March, 2009.



Aongus Ó hAonghusa, Director, National Library of Ireland (left) presenting Senior Category and Overall Winner, Samuel McGovern from St Andrew's College, Dublin with the POETRY ALOUD 2008 trophy. Also in the photograph are Ann Fitzsimons, teacher, St Andrew's College, and Joseph Woods, Director, Poetry Ireland.



Liam O'Brien, Presentation Secondary School, Ballingarry, Co Tipperary winner of the Junior Category, photographed with Aongus Ó hAonghusa and Joseph Woods.



James Peters, St John the Baptist Community School, Hospital, Co Limerick, winner of the Intermediate Category being presented with his prize by Aongus Ó hAonghusa. Also in the photograph are Michael O'Donoghue, teacher, St John the Baptist Community School, and Joseph Woods.



Niamh McMenamin, St Columba's College, Stranorlar, Co Donegal, runner-up in the Junior Category, pictured with competition judge Liz Weir.

Buaiteoirí an Chomórtais POETRY ALOUD

Eagraíonn Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann i bpáirt le Poetry Ireland comórtas bliantúil fhilíocht labhartha POETRY ALOUD, comórtas atá oscailte do dhaltaí iarbhunscoile na hÉireann.

Chuir beagnach 900 dalta isteach ar an gcomórtas is déanaí. Bhí na dreasa réigiúnacha ar siúl scoileanna i gCill Airne, i gCill Chainnigh, i nGaillimh, i Laois, i Muineachán agus i bhFear Manach. Bhí cineáltas príomhoidí na scoileanna a bhí sásta a bheith ina n-óstach do na dreasa réigiúnacha an-tábhachtach maidir le rath an chomórtais – go háirithe toisc go bhfuil méadú gach bliain ar líon na n-iontrálacha ó lainseáladh an comórtas faoin teideal YEATS ALOUD sa bhlian 2006.

Bhí sé ar siúl ar ag an am céanna leis an taispeántas rathúil *Yeats: saol agus saothar William Butler Yeats*, bhí Yeats mar ghé-fhile sa chomórtas ceannais, a bhí ar siúl i Seomra Seimineáir na Leabharlainne ar 28ú Samhain 2008. Rinne na 27 iomaitheoir sa chomórtas ceannais, a bhí roinnte i dtrí chatagóir (Sinsearach, Idirmhéanach agus Sóisearach), aithris ar a gcuid dánta roimh phaineál de thriúr bhreitheamh, agus ba iad sin Stiúrthóir Poetry Ireland, Joseph Woods;

scéalaí Liz Weir, agus an taighdeoir comhairleach agus scoláire, an dochtúir Stacey Herbert.

Bhí Samuel McGovern, Coláiste Naomh Aindriú, Baile Átha Cliath, mar bhuaiteoir iomlán agus buaiteoir an Chatagóir Sinsearaigh. Bhuaigh Liam O'Brien, Meánscoil na Toirbhearta, Baile an Gharraí, Co Thiobraid Árann, an Catagóir Sóisearach, agus bhuaigh James Peters, Coláiste Naomh Eoin Báiste, an tOspidéal, Co Luimnigh, an Catagóir Idirmhéanach.

I mbliana, don chéad uair riamh, rinneadh cinneadh aitheantas a thabhairt don dara duine is fearr i ngach catagóir. Ba iad na daltaí a bhí sa dara háit ná Niamh McMenaimin, Coláiste Choilm, Srath an Urláir, Co Dhún na nGall (Sóisearach); Esther Glenfield, Coláiste Wesley, Baile Átha Cliath (Idirmhéanach), agus Rosalie Edge, Coláiste Naomh Macnissi, Carnlach, Co Aontroma (Sinsearach).

Beidh an comórtas POETRY ALOUD le feiceáil ar *Arts Lives* mar chuid de chlár faoin bhfile Thomas Kinsella a chraolfar ar RTÉ a hAon tráthnóna Dé Máirt, 24 Márta 2009.



Some of the 24 competition finalists pictured just before the winners were announced.



Rosalie Edge, St Macnissi's College, Carnlough, Co Antrim, runner-up in the Senior Category.

Esther Glenfield, Wesley College, Dublin, runner-up in the Intermediate Category.

Mickey O'Shea in his haberdashery shop, 1978



Enjoying a pint, 1970



D James
Galbraith's
Ireland:
1970-1997

Young boys selling periwinkles and religious cards to the photographer in a pub, 1978

Miko Russell



A pierside discussion, Cobh, Co Cork, October 1997

D James Galbraith was one of the most celebrated American photographers of the 20th century. Accolades included a Pulitzer Prize nomination for his work on documenting Hartland, a small town in Michigan; his work has also featured in a series of 50-year retrospective exhibitions held in museums, libraries and arts centres across America.

Born in 1930, Galbraith began his career as a photographer for the US Air Force; later he worked for newspapers in Ann Arbor, Michigan as well as for other Michigan newspapers. Most of his work, including *A Common Eye*, *An Uncommon Vision* and *Slainte: an Irish Portfolio* has been exhibited in various Michigan libraries and museums.

In 2006, the National Photographic Archive (NPA) acquired a significant collection of photographs taken by him during his visits to Ireland in 1970, 1978 and 1997. The NPA's current exhibition, **D James**

Galbraith's Ireland: 1970-1997, features a selection of these photographs and captures various aspects of Irish life that changed dramatically during a period spanning almost thirty years. In particular, the photographs provide insights into daily life in rural areas as well as in small towns and villages in Cork, Kerry and Clare. For example, they include images of a market day in Kenmare, gathering kindling, and the transportation of milk churns by horse and cart.

The exhibition also features images of street activities, pub life and the traditional Irish music scene. It includes photographs of well-known traditional musicians Miko and Gussie Russell pictured at home and also pictured performing in O'Connor's pub, Doolin, Co Clare; a portrait of Mickey O'Shea in a haberdashery shop in an unnamed location, and the community of Cistercian monks in Mount Melleray Abbey, Co Waterford depicted both at prayer and at work.

Miko Russell playing the flute, Doolin, Co Clare, 1978



Small boys with tricycles, Galway, 1978

The NPA's collection, which comprises some 1,272 negatives (both black and white and colour) and 131 archival and exhibition-quality prints, represents a hugely important body of work – both in terms of the quality of the photography and the significance of the subject matter. An additional benefit is that much of the Galbraith subject matter is not represented elsewhere in the NPA collections.

One outstanding feature of Galbraith's approach to photography and portraiture was the way in which he consistently tried to capture the spirit and humanity of his subjects; his images reflect the close ties that link individuals to the land, to family, to friends and the community. The sense of lightness of touch and sensitivity that he displayed in all his work is particularly evident in the current NPA exhibition. As a result, the portraits are invariably highly engaging.

The exhibition continues until 2 June, 2009.



Harness maker, 1970



Aongus Ó hAonghusa, Director, National Library of Ireland and Gerry Lyne, Keeper of Manuscripts, National Library of Ireland pictured with the poet John Montague (seated) at the official handing over of John Montague's archive to the Library.

Library acquires substantial archive of literary works by John Montague

The Library has acquired a substantial archive of literary works by John Montague who is acknowledged as one of Ireland's foremost contemporary poets.

Montague, who recently celebrated his 80th birthday, continues to maintain a prolific output.

The archive, which was acquired by the Library in late 2008, will provide an enormously significant resource for scholars and researchers, not only in relation to the poet's life and work, but to Irish literary studies in general.

Over the space of 50 years John Montague has published poetry, essays, stories, memoirs and translations of several French writers. He has compiled and edited an anthology of recent Irish history; has contributed prefaces and introductions to works by other writers, and has written numerous reviews. In 1998 he became the first occupant of the Ireland Chair of Poetry – a partnership between the two Arts Councils in Ireland, Trinity College Dublin, Queen's University Belfast, and University College Dublin. A selection of his poems is included in the Leaving Certificate syllabus.

While the archive acquired by the Library dates mainly from 1987 onwards, it also includes a significant amount of pre-1987 Montague material, including drafts and working copies of some of his earliest poems. Among these early works are his 'New World Odyssey' poems about Brooklyn (1953-54), a printed copy (with the poet's holograph alterations and notes) of *Forms of Exile* (1958), and drafts and typescripts of poems from *Poisoned Lands* (1961), *The Great Cloak* (1978) and other volumes. It also includes the comprehensive working

archive for more recent publications, such as *Mount Eagle* (1988), *Time in Armagh* (1993), *Smashing of the piano* (1999) and *Drunken sailor* (2004).

Also included is an extensive collection of correspondence with publishers, editors, co-editors, academics and artists, as well as a wide range of Irish, British, American and French literati. Correspondents include Samuel Beckett, Seamus Heaney, Saul Bellow, Ted Hughes and many others. Their letters include much critical commentary and news about fellow writers and poets.

A particularly noteworthy feature of the archive is the poet's extensive working library, which provides a vital, separate supplement to his working papers. When drafting his poems, Montague frequently uses blank end-leaves and spaces at the bottom of printed pages in books by other writers. The books also contain his often extensive reading and teaching notes, as well as pasted-in letters.

John Montague was born in New York in 1929, raised in Tyrone, and studied History at University College Dublin. While pursuing postgraduate studies at Yale University and elsewhere in the US, he met a cross-section of American poets and writers, including John Crowe Ransom, Richard Wilbur and Robert Penn Warren. In California he became friends with many poets of the 'Beat' generation. Later, while living in Paris, he became a friend of Samuel Beckett and the French poet, Claude Esteban, whose work he translated.

Pre-1987 Montague material, for the most part, is held in University of Buffalo, New York.

National Library of Ireland Society

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.

The Society's Spring/Summer programme features a lecture by Dr Patrick Geoghegan, School of History, Trinity College entitled **The Mob King: Daniel O'Connell and the Making of Ireland**. This event takes place on 11 March.

On 22 April, Dr Mark O'Brien, School of Communications, Dublin City University will give a lecture on the topic of the history of *The Irish Times*.

On 27 May, noted historian Sir Martin Gilbert will give a lecture entitled **Churchill and Ireland: a 70-year rollercoaster**.

Details of Society events can be found on the Library website www.nli.ie. Lectures and other events begin at 7pm and take place in the Library's Seminar Room.

Membership Rates

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| 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 Joly Café and in the Library shop.

Contacting us

For further information on the NLI Society, please contact Roger Courtney, Hon Secretary, NLI Society, National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Email: nlisociety@nli.ie. Tel: 01-603 0384

Library to host unique memoir writing workshop



In April the Library will host a unique workshop tutored by Irene Graham, founder of *The Creative Writer's Workshop* and author of *The Memoir Writing Workbook*. Open to both new and established writers, it is specifically aimed at people who are interested in forming a memoir writing club in their local area.

Irene Graham has been tutoring creative writers in fiction writing and memoir writing for almost 20 years. During the three-day workshop, she will show participants how to think like a writer, how to use right-brain/left-brain learning techniques to tap into creativity and draw upon the myriad of incidents that make up a life story and path; how to explore theme and its associated meaning; how to focus on narrative structure including character development, setting, plot and conflict. Throughout, participants will use *The Memoir Writing Workbook* to help them create and start their own memoir.

The event is strictly limited to a total of 15 participants. The workshop will take place from 11am to 4pm on Monday and Tuesday 27 and 28 April, and from 10am to 1pm on Wednesday 29 April in the Library's Seminar Room.

Calendar of events

RI Best Memorial Lecture

On 25 March, Professor Robert Schmuhl will give the RI Best Memorial Lecture entitled **Easter 1916 and America: a provisional appraisal**. Professor Schmuhl is the Walter H Annenberg-Edmund P Joyce Professor of American Studies and Journalism at the University of Notre Dame, and is the current holder of the John Hume Research Fellowship at the UCD John Hume Institute for Global Irish Studies. Booking is essential. Please contact Orla Sweeney. Email: osweeney@nli.ie Tel: 01-603 0244.

Strangers to Citizens lecture series

On Monday 20 April, Dr Marian Lyons, Department of History, St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin and Dr Thomas O'Connor, History Department, NUI Maynooth will give a lecture entitled **The Irish in Europe Project**. It will begin at 7pm. Booking is not required.

Dublin: One City, One Book

To mark our involvement in the annual *Dublin: One City, One Book* initiative, we will be mounting a display of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* material drawn from the Library's collections during April. On Monday 27 April Dr Bogdan Florin Popovici, archivist with the National Archives of Romania will give a lecture entitled **Dracula's myth: from facts to tourism marketing, (Mitul lui Dracula: de la fapte reale la marketing turistic)**, while on Tuesday 28 April Elizabeth Miller, Professor Emerita, Memorial University of Newfoundland will give a lecture entitled **Bram Stoker's Dracula: from Notes to Novel**. Both events take place at 7pm in the Library's Seminar Room. Admission is free and booking is not required.

Easter Events for Children

On Wednesday 15 April from 11.30am to 1pm the Library will be hosting **Caring for your Collection**, an event where one of the Library's conservators will show young collectors some of the methods used to take care of the Library's collections, and will suggest practical methods that children can use to look after their own collections. This event is aimed at children between the ages of 8 and 13. For further information, see <http://www.nli.ie/en/list/current-events.aspx>

My Yeats – trail stop tour

My Yeats – trail stop tour, a fun, guided event for families visiting the **Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats** exhibition, takes place on Monday 6 and Thursday 9 April at 1pm and is suitable for children aged 7+. For further information, see www.nli.ie/yeats

Bealtaine Festival

The Library in association with Age & Opportunity's Bealtaine Festival will host many exciting events as part of this year's festival in May. Each event will be based on a different aspect of the Library's collections and on the **Yeats** exhibition, and will include a display of material from the collections chosen by a Wexford-based Bealtaine group. On Thursday 7, 14 and 21 May from 10am to 12 noon we will be hosting a workshop entitled **Finding your family: an introduction to the Library's resources for family history research**. The facilitator will be Máire Mac Conghail, professional genealogist and a member of the Board of the National Library of Ireland. Exhibition tours and readings will also feature in the Library's programme. The national launch of Bealtaine 2009 will take place in the Library on 21 April.

If you would like to receive a copy of our monthly e-bulletin on upcoming Library events, contact Roisín Barry. Email: rbarry@nli.ie

Comments and suggestions on **NLI News** should be addressed to Brid O'Sullivan. Email: bosullivan@nli.ie

