NEWS

National Library of Ireland
NUACHT Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann

poetry speaking competition 2008

Number 33: Autumn 2008

Entries are now being sought for the 'POETRY ALOUD' spoken poetry competition for post-primary school students. Organised by the Library in association with Poetry Ireland, it seeks to celebrate the joy of speaking and listening to poetry.

This is the third year of the competition, which last year attracted over 700 entries. In this year's competition, which is open to any pupil attending a second-level school on the island of Ireland, first-round entrants must speak one prescribed poem and a chosen poem from a set list. Thomas Kinsella, who celebrates his 80th birthday this year, was selected as the prescribed poet in the first round of competition. To coincide with the Library's award-winning exhibition ***Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats***, Yeats will feature as the prescribed poet in the final.

There will be three winning categories – Junior, Intermediate and Senior. One Overall Winner will be chosen from among the winners of the three categories.

In order to facilitate and encourage schools to take part, regional heats will be held in seven locations throughout the island between 13 and 24 October. Regional winners will go forward to the semi-final, to be held in Dublin on 28 November. The final will take place later the same evening.

The final competition judges are the poet Joseph Woods, storyteller Liz Weir and actor George McMahon.

Entry forms and competition details have been sent to all second-level schools in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Entry forms may also be downloaded from the Library's website **www.nli.ie** and from the Poetry Ireland website **www.poetryireland.ie**. The closing date for entries is 30 September 2008.

National Library Events

Library Late

The featured writers for the June and July 'Library Late' events were Peter Somerville-Large and Dervla Murphy, they are photographed here with RTÉ producer and presenter Kay Sheehy.

Planes, Trains and Automobiles

The National Photographic Archive's (NPA) current exhibition ***Planes, Trains and Automobiles*** focuses on transport and how people travelled around and to Ireland in the twentieth century.

It was opened on 26 June by former Taoiseach Dr Garret FitzGerald. He is photographed here with Justin Nelson, who formerly worked with RTÉ and the Nationalist Newspapers in Clonmel and recently donated his collection of photographs to the Library. Some of the images from that collection feature in the current NPA exhibition.

Irish Queer Archive

The Irish Queer Archive – a vast collection of material which provides interesting and valuable insights into the social history of lesbians and gay men in an Irish and international context over a thirty-year period – has been donated to the Library by the National Lesbian and Gay Federation. The official hand-over of the Archive took place on 16 June at a reception where Colm Toíbín, novelist, journalist and one of Ireland's most internationally acclaimed contemporary writers was the guest speaker.

Colm Toíbín is photographed here with Gerry Lyne, the Library's Keeper of Manuscripts (centre); Ailbhe Smith, Chair of the National Lesbian and Gay Federation and Tonie Smith, the Irish Queer Archive.

Scottish-Irish Exchange

On 30 June, Children's Books Ireland and the Library jointly hosted a literary event focused on the work of teen fiction authors Kate Thompson and Keith Gray.

They are photographed here with Robert Dunbar, *Irish Times* critic, writer and broadcaster who chaired the event.

Dublin Joyce Summer School

Photographed at the launch of the Dublin Joyce Summer School on 7 July were Anne Fogarty, Professor of James Joyce Studies, UCD (left); Caroline Walsh, Literary Editor of the *Irish Times* and Aongus Ó hAonghusa, Director, National Library of Ireland.

Pictured at the 'Poet on Poet' event were from left Ian Duhig; Matthew Sweeney, Vincent Woods, Barry McGovern and Dr Carrie Etter.

Below: John Banville being interviewed by RTÉ presenter and producer Kay Sheehy during the 'Reflection with John Banville' event which took place on 26 June.

Summer's Wreath 08 Events

This year's *Summer's Wreath* programme again celebrated William Butler Yeats' creativity and legacy with a series of events centred around the poet's birthday in June.

Run in conjunction with the Library's current exhibition ***Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats,*** the programme featured a series of nine lunchtime events during which leading actors and writers read some of their favourite Yeats' poetry and plays and reflected on what Yeats and his writing meant to them personally while others took part in public interviews with RTÉ broadcaster Kay Sheehy.

Among those who participated were actors Fiona Shaw, Patrick Bergin, Barry McGovern, Don Wycherley, Alan Stanford and Brian Munn; journalists Mary Kenny and Bruce Arnold; film maker and theatre director Alan Gilsenan, and novelist and journalist John Banville.

In the first 'Children's Story Hour Saturday' held on 21 June, Danielle Allison brought children of all ages on an imaginative journey through a world of folktales, myths and legends, so loved by WB Yeats. On 28 June Aideen McBride hosted a story-telling session centred around the theme of dreaming – reminiscent of Yeats' own accounts of beautiful dreams of heaven, Ireland, summer flowers and forest glades.

In an event entitled 'Poet on Poet', which also formed part of the *Summer's Wreath 08* programme, three poets from different cultural backgrounds discussed the influence that Yeats has had on their work; they also discussed his impact on 20th century literature in general, and his impact on poetry in particular. The three poets were Ian Duhig from England; Matthew Sweeney from Ireland and Dr Carrie Etter from the US. The event, which was chaired by RTÉ *Arts Show* presenter Vincent Woods, also featured readings of Yeats' poetry by the actor Barry McGovern. The entire proceedings were broadcast on RTÉ Radio 1 on 24 June.

On 26 June the Library organised a one-day immersion course designed to give participants a real understanding and overview of the life and works of WB Yeats. The course, which attracted a huge number of applicants, was run by university lecturer Gerard Dineen. It focused on Yeats' poetry and plays, and how his work was influenced by historic events in Ireland and around the world; the programme included lectures, film screenings and a guided tour of the Yeats exhibition.

Pictured below from left to right: Don Wycherley, Barry McGovern, Fiona Shaw and Brian Munn.

Journeys – a nine-week partnership with the St John of God Service

Photographed following the presentation of their certificates are project participants Liam Ryan, Stephen Stuart, Peter Kavanagh, Frank Hynes, David Kennedy, Mark Lee, Sharon Cruise and Liz Oxley. Also photographed are Grainne Loftus (representing project participant Maureen Grogan who was unable to attend the reception), and Aongus Ó hAonghusa, Director, National Library of Ireland.

In May, staff from the Library's Education and Outreach Department embarked on an exciting, nine-week voyage of discovery with a group of adults with intellectual disabilities: their mission was to explore themes from the Library's current major public exhibition ***Strangers to Citizens: the Irish in Europe 1600–1800***.

The project, entitled 'Journeys past, present and future', built on the success of last year's Autobiographies project during which the Choices group from the St John of God Carmona Service in Dun Laoghaire visited the Library's Yeats exhibition and participated in a series of related workshops. This year, the Education and Outreach team were delighted to welcome back some of the original members of the Choices group and to work for the first time with members from the St John of God Lakelands Service in Dundrum, Dublin.

The direction of the project was determined by the participants who, on their first visit to the ***Strangers to Citizens*** exhibition, had expressed great interest in the experiences of Irish people who lived at an earlier point in this country's history. In a follow-up discussion, the group decided that they would like the project to explore the exhibition's themes of 'journeys, hopes, challenges and obstacles', using drama and art to explore how these themes related to their own lives.

For the 'journeys' theme, they considered the experiences of the Flight of the Earls, focusing on the diary of Tadhg Ó Cianáin, a Franciscan who was on board the ship that set sail from Rathmullan in 1607. This led to a discussion about the difficulties faced by seventeenth-century travellers and how these people's journeys and travel preparations compared with those of today's traveller. The group then compiled 'picture diaries' in which they recorded memories of past trips of their own. This exercise was subsequently put to good use by one participant who, while on holidays during the nine-week course, collected photographs and postcards, and on his return home, wrote a travel journal.

One of the other aims of the project was to look at the experiences of Irish emigrants. Through the medium of theatre, games and role play, participants explored some of the obstacles that migrants might have faced when they settled in a new country.

The project also looked at the history of heraldry. Discussion and group work focused on the significance of the colours and symbolism used in coats of arms, and how this relates to the identity of the arms bearer. Participants designed their own imagined coat of arms that reflected their personalities, hopes and dreams.

To mark the end of the project, and to celebrate the group's achievements, a reception was held in the Library on 9 July. Friends and family members of the participants, as well as staff members from St John of God and the Library were invited to view the completed project work. The Director of the National Library of Ireland, Aongus Ó hAonghusa gave a brief address and presented each participant with a Certificate of Achievement. This was followed by a series of short speeches given by the project participants.

The success of the project is probably best summed up by the participants themselves. Peter Kavanagh thanked everyone "for getting involved, for the games, for the art and for getting together at the tea breaks." Others commented on the exhibition's use of technology, with Liam Ryan noting that "my favourite thing was the touch-screen book in the exhibition." Mark Lee said that he enjoyed the historical dimension, adding that he "really liked looking at those people's lives and all the different countries they went to". David Kennedy agreed, but noted that "getting up at five in the morning, like most students in the seventeenth century, wouldn't be my thing".

As one journey ends, we hope others will soon begin: one of the main topics of conversation at the reception was 'when shall we collaborate again?'

Aistir – comhpháirtíocht naoi seachtaine le Seirbhís Eoin Dé

Mí na Bealtaine, thosaigh baill foirne ó Rannóg Oideachais agus For-rochtana na Leabharlainne ar iomramh fionnachtana naoi seachtaine le grúpa de dhaoine fásta faoi mhíchumas intleachta: ba é a misean téamaí ó mhórthaispeántas reatha na Leabharlainne ***Strainséirí ina Saoránaigh: Na hÉireannaigh san Eoraip 1600–1800*** a scrúdú.

Thóg an tionscadal, dar teideal 'Aistir san am atá thart, san am i láthair agus sa todhchaí', ar rath thionscadal Dírbheathaisnéisí na bliana seo caite inar thug an grúpa Choices ó Sheirbhís Carmona Eoin Dé Dhún Laoghaire cuairt ar thaispeántas Yeats na Leabharlainne agus inar ghlac siad páirt i sraith de cheardlanna gaolmhara. Bhí an áthas ar an bhfoireann Oideachais agus For-rochtana fáilte a chur roimh roinnt de na baill bhunaidh den ghrúpa Choices arís i mbliana agus dul i mbun oibre den chéad uair le baill de Sheirbhís Lakelands Eoin Dé i Dún Droma, Baile Átha Cliath.

Is iad na rannpháirtithe féin a shocraigh treoir an tionscadail, tar éis dóibh an-spéis a léiriú, sa chéad chuairt a thug siad ar an taispeántas ***Strainséirí ina Saoránaigh***, i eispéiris na nÉireannach a mhair ag pointe níos luaithe i stair na tíre. Tar éis dóibh plé a dhéanamh ina dhiaidh, shocraigh an grúpa gur mhian leo go scrúdódh an tionscadal téamaí an taispeántais, is iad sin 'aistir, mianta, dúshláin agus constaicí', ag baint úsáide as drámaíocht agus ealaín chun scrúdú a dhéanamh ar conas mar a bhain na téamaí sin lena saol féin.

Maidir leis an téarma 'aistir', rinne siad machnamh ar eispéiris Theitheadh na nIarlaí, ag díriú isteach ar dhialann Thadhg Uí Chianáin, Proinsiasach a bhí ar bord na loinge a sheol ó Ráth Maoláin in 1607. Spreagadh plé dá bharr ar na deacrachtaí a bhí ag taistealaithe sa seachtú haois déag agus ar chomparáid idir aistir agus ullmhúcháin taistil na ndaoine sin agus taistealaithe an lá atá inniu ann. Thiomsaigh an grúpa 'dialanna pictiúr' inar thaifead siad cuimhní cinn ó thurais dá gcuid féin san am atá thart. Baineadh feidhm mhaith as an obair seo ina dhiaidh i gcás rannpháirtí amháin a bhailigh grianghraif agus cártaí poist, agus é ar saoire le linn an chúrsa naoi seachtaine, agus a scríobh dialann taistil ar fhilleadh abhaile dó.

Ceann eile d'aidhmeanna an tionscadail ab ea eispéiris eisimirceach Éireannach a scrúdú. Trí mheán an téatair, na gcluichí agus an rólghlactha, rinne na rannpháirtithe scrúdú ar roinnt de na deacrachtaí a bheadh ag imircigh tar éis dóibh lonnú i dtír nua.

D'fhéach an tionscadal ar stair an araltais freisin. Dhírigh plé agus grúpobair ar an gciall a bhaineann leis na dathanna agus an siombalachas a úsáidtear in armais, agus conas mar a bhaineann sé seo le haitheantas shealbhóir an armais. Dhear rannpháirtithe a n-armas samhalta féin a raibh a bpearsantacht, a mianta agus a mbrionglóidí féin ann.

Chun deireadh an tionscadail a mharcáil, agus chun éachtaí an ghrúpa a cheiliúradh, tionóladh fáiltiú sa Leabharlann ar an 9ú Lúil. Tugadh cuireadh do chairde agus do bhaill teaghlaigh na rannpháirtithe, agus do bhaill foirne ó Eoin Dé agus ón Leabharlann chun an saothar críochnaithe a fheiceáil. Thug Aongus Ó hAonghusa, Stiúrthóir Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann, óráid ghearr agus bhronn sé Teastas Gnóthachtála ar gach rannpháirtí. Thug rannpháirtithe an tionscadail sraith d'óráidí gearra ina dhiaidh sin.

B'fhéidir gurbh fhearr focail na rannpháirtithe féin chun rath an tionscadail a chur in iúl. Ghabh Peter Kavanagh buíochas le gach duine as "páirt a ghlacadh, as na cluichí, as an ealaín agus as an gcomhluadar le linn na sosanna tae." Luaigh daoine eile an fheidhm a baineadh as an teicneolaíocht sa taispeántas: dúirt Liam Ryan, "an rud ab fhearr liomsa ná an leabhar scáileán tadhaill sa taispeántas." Dúirt Mark Lee gur bhain sé taitneamh as an diminsean stairiúil: "bhain mé an-sult as féachaint ar shaol na ndaoine sin agus ar na tíortha difriúla a ndeachaigh siad chucu". D'aontaigh David Kennedy leis, agus dúirt "ba leisce liom éirí ag a cúig a chlog ar maidin, ar nós mic léinn an tseachtú aois déag".

De réir mar a thagann deireadh le turas amháin, tá súil againn go dtosófar isteach ar chinn eile: ceann de na príomhábhair chainte ag an bhfáiltiú ba ea 'cathain a bheimid ag comhoibriú arís?'

Through drama and role play, project participants explored exhibition themes such as the challenges faced by Irish emigrants, they also explored some of the obstacles that migrants might have faced when they settled in a new country.

David Kennedy displays the coat of arms which he designed, and which reflects his interests and hopes for the future.

French Prints in the Department of Prints and Drawings

The origin of the Department of Prints and Drawings' extensive collection of French prints dates back to 1863 when Dr Jaspar Joly, a Dublin barrister of Belgian and French extraction who was born in Clonbullogue, Co Offaly, made over the greater part of his extremely valuable library of books, manuscripts, sheet music, maps and prints to the Royal Dublin Society. The collection was subsequently transferred to the National Library of Ireland when it was established in 1877.

Writing in the *Irish Book Lover*, (Vol XII) in 1921, TW Lyster, who at that time held the post of Librarian, National Library of Ireland, said of the Joly Collection: "Its Napoleonic literature section is the most excellent in the three kingdoms, and that dealing with the French Revolution is no less extensive."

The collection has long been highly regarded by academics and fine arts experts. When an opportunity arose earlier this year to arrange for a detailed survey of the French prints in the collection, the Library's curatorial staff immediately took up this offer.

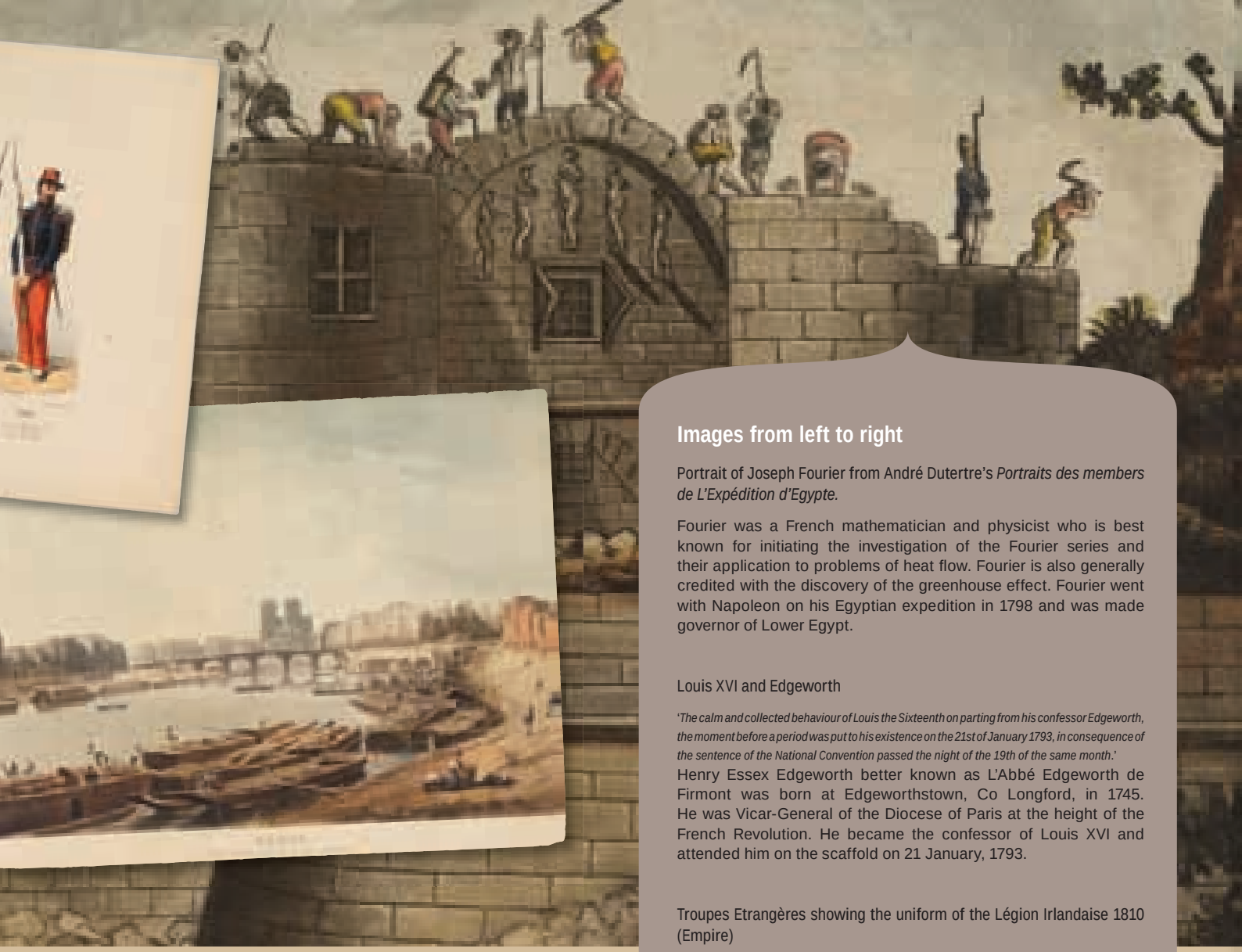
The opportunity presented itself in the form of an application for an internship from Claire Chemel, a student at the ENSSIB (École nationale supérieure des sciences de l'information et des bibliothèques) in Lyon. During her three-month internship in the Library's Department of Prints and Drawings, she listed more than 4,000 French items, among them portraits and topographical views, prints of military and historical costumes, and prints depicting military and historical events such as the French Revolution, the Napoleonic wars, the revolutions of 1830 and 1848 and the period of the Second Empire, from 1852 to 1870.

Most of the prints contained in the collection are portraits of French subjects painted during the 18th and 19th centuries. They include a vast number of portraits of Napoleon and other members of the Bonaparte family along with portraits of the French Royal family and portraits of prominent political figures, writers, artists and members of the upper echelons of society. The selection is very representative of public life during an era of enormous change in France.

While Paris is the main subject of the topographical part of the collection, many other areas of France are also featured – in particular the regions of Normandy and the Alps.

In addition to a significant number of coloured prints, the collection contains watercolours, original sketches and drawings. Many of these are not only of great historical interest, they are also items of great beauty; the prints relating to French military campaigns in Egypt and Algeria are a particular case in point.

The collection is arranged in various categories. For example, portraits are filed in alphabetical order, with separate sections for Napoleon, his family, and French royalty. The topographical prints are arranged by location, grouped by region. While prints of



historical events are arranged chronologically, some series have been kept together; these include prints relating to the conquest of Algeria or the French intervention during the Italian independence wars.

Among the unusual items in the ephemera categories are 'assignats' (paper money dating from the period of the French Revolution). Other unusual items include several interesting puzzle pictures and a range of political satires and caricatures, many featuring Napoleon.

Particular collection highlights include colourful plates from Charles Vernier's *Costumes de l'armée française depuis Louis XIV, jusqu'à nos jours*; these depict the evolution of French military costume from the 17th century to the 19th century. Another remarkable item is a series of prints originating from sketches made by the artist André Dutertre during Bonaparte's campaign in Egypt (1798-1801); these comprise almost 150 portraits of members of the expedition – some of whom were army personnel, others who were members of the scientific team. The portraits, all sketched on the spot, offer us a very lively and unusual view of this historic event.

While the collection has yet to be fully catalogued, all material has been listed in electronic form and a finding aid is available to researchers who visit the Department. Visits may be arranged by appointment; access is on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9.30am to 12.30pm and from 2pm to 5pm.

For further information, or to make an appointment, contact the collection's Curator Honora Faul on 01-603 0225 or email **hfaul@nli.ie**

Images from left to right

Portrait of Joseph Fourier from André Dutertre's *Portraits des members de L'Expédition d'Egypte.*

Fourier was a French mathematician and physicist who is best known for initiating the investigation of the Fourier series and their application to problems of heat flow. Fourier is also generally credited with the discovery of the greenhouse effect. Fourier went with Napoleon on his Egyptian expedition in 1798 and was made governor of Lower Egypt.

Louis XVI and Edgeworth

'The calm and collected behaviour of Louis the Sixteenth on parting from his confessor Edgeworth, the moment before a period was put to his existence on the 21st of January 1793, in consequence of the sentence of the National Convention passed the night of the 19th of the same month.'

Henry Essex Edgeworth better known as L'Abbé Edgeworth de Firmont was born at Edgeworthstown, Co Longford, in 1745. He was Vicar-General of the Diocese of Paris at the height of the French Revolution. He became the confessor of Louis XVI and attended him on the scaffold on 21 January, 1793.

Troupes Etrangères showing the uniform of the Légion Irlandaise 1810 (Empire)

Plate from Charles Vernier's ***Costumes de L'Armée Française,*** Troupes Etrangères showing the uniform of the Légion Irlandaise (Empire) in 1810.

Paris. Notre Dame Prise de L'isle Louvier

Notre Dame before the addition of Violett le Duc's central spire is shown dominating the skyline in this view taken from the south side of the Ile de St Louis. The foreground includes a number of barges loaded with timber. Unloading of the moored barges is underway, with workmen trudging up well-worn paths in the river bank.

Background Image

Monument du Despotisme. Commencé sous Charles V. en 1369, achevé en 1383. Pris le 14 juillet 1789 et démoli aussitôt après sa prise.

The Bastille, a fortress-prison in Paris, was a symbol of repression. The storming of the Bastille on 14 July 1789 is considered the beginning of the French Revolution. An entrepreneur Pierre-Francois Palloy, "Patriote Palloy" secured a license for its demolition and produced a large range of souvenirs, including much of the rubble of the building. The actual demolition proceeded quickly and by November 1789, the structure was largely demolished.

Right Page

Napoleon Empereur des Francais

Portrait of the Empereur Napoleon surrounded by thirteen of his marshals.

Samuel Beckett's *Collected dramatic works* translated into Hebrew by Shimon Levy.

Eoin Colfer's *The legend of the worst boy in the world* translated into Finnish by Jaakko Kankaanpää.

Pádraic Ó Conaire's *Deoraiocht Exile* translated into Vietnamese by Tanh Van.

Marie Heaney's *The names upon the harp* translated into Japanese by Mitsuku Ohno, Kazuko Kawaguchi, Rie Kawai and Junko Ohno.

Marita Conlon-McKenna's *Under the hawthorn tree* translated into Arabic by Al Batran.

Claire Keegan's *Walk the Blue Fields* translated into Slovene by Maja Novak.

Ciaran Carson's *Shamrock Tea* translated into Polish by Maciej Świerkocki.

Ireland Literature Exchange (ILE) and the Library highlight translations of works by Irish authors

Ireland Literature Exchange (ILE) is the national agency for the promotion of Irish literature abroad.

It does this primarily by offering translation grants to international publishers. Residential bursaries are also made available to literary translators. ILE organises translator and author events at international festivals, and it participates regularly in the major world book fairs. In addition, it welcomes applications from Irish publishers who wish to publish international literature in translation.

A not-for-profit organisation, it is funded by both arts councils on the island of Ireland, by Culture Ireland and by Bord na Leabhar Gaeilge/The Irish Language Books Board. Established in 1994, ILE has funded the translation of more than 1,000 books into 40 languages in 34 countries.

One copy of each published translation is donated to the Library and two copies are donated to the Rosetta List of Dublin City Public Libraries. By doing this, ILE ensures that copies of Irish works in many languages are made available to interested researchers and the general public, and also to those who have settled in Ireland and may wish to discover and enjoy Irish literature in their own native language.

To highlight this collection, the Library has mounted a display of a selection of titles running from July through October 2008. Among the titles on display were a collection of Samuel Beckett's dramatic works in Hebrew, Pádraic O'Conaire's *Deoraíocht* in Vietnamese and Marie Heaney's *The names upon the harp* in Japanese.

Also on display was a selection of books by children's authors, including Marita Conlon-McKenna's *Under the hawthorn tree* in Arabic and *The legend of the worst boy in the world* by Eoin Colfer in Finnish.

In August, ILE and the Library hosted a series of events aimed at highlighting the work of translators. This series of events featured Declan Kiberd in conversation with Gerardo Gambolini, the Spanish language translator of both Kiberd's *Inventing Ireland* and John McGahern's *Collected Stories*.

Slovene translator Maja Novak talked about her recent translation of Claire Keegan's latest collection of short stories, *Walk the Blue Fields*. This was preceded by a reading given by Claire Keegan.

Translator Maciej Świerkocki and publisher Piotr Mielcarek, discussed with Ciaran Carson the Polish translation of his book *Shamrock Tea.*

The evening concluded with a musical recital performed by Deirdre and Ciaran Carson

Further information on the work of ILE may be found on **www.irelandliterature.com**.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

National Library of Ireland
NUACHT Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann

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 tosupport the Library at a crucial phase in its development.

One of the highlights of the Society's Autumn/Winter programme will be a lecture entitled *The Rivals are Immortal: Gladstone and Disraeli* to be given by Professor Richard Aldous, Head of the School of History and Archives, University College Dublin on Tuesday 7 October.

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.

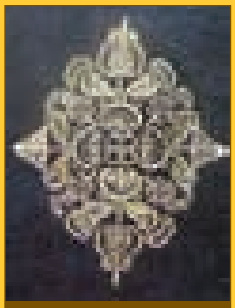
Membership Rates

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



Lozenge motif from the binding of Exactissima descriptio rariorum quarundam plantarum by Pietro Castelli, (Rome, 1625).

'This Glittering Library' 275 Years of the Edward Worth Library

275 years ago this year, Edward Worth, a Dublin physician, died, leaving a library of 4,500 books (and a bequest to cover the cost of housing them) to the newly-founded Dr Steevens's Hospital, of which he was a Trustee. Worth's library not only reflected his professional interests in the areas of medicine and science (with over one-third of the collection being devoted to medical works alone), it also testifies to his fascination with early modern printing and bookbinding. From 13 October to 29 November 2008, the Library will host an exhibition entitled 'This Glittering Library' curated by Dr Elizabethanne Boran, Assistant Librarian, Worth Library. The exhibition focuses on bindings from three countries: Ireland, England and the Netherlands. Worth was fortunate to have been collecting at a time when many important English, French and Dutch libraries were being sold. His remarkably well-preserved collection not only contains superb examples of bindings from across Europe, it also offers twenty-first century bibliophiles a unique insight into bookbinding in early eighteenth-century Ireland. A lecture in association with the exhibition will take place on 17 October (see calendar of events).

Further information on the Worth Library may be found on **www.edwardworthlibrary.ie**

Calendar of events

Strangers to Citizens

In association with the Library's exhibition ***Strangers to Citizens: the Irish in Europe 1600–1800*** there will be a serious of lectures on various related themes. On Wednesday 29 October, Dr Samuel Fannin will give a lecture entitled *Eighteenth century globalisation – Irish merchants in Spanish commerce.* Booking for these events is not required, and all lectures begin at 7pm.

Culture Night

To celebrate 'Culture Night' on Friday 19 September all Library and the National Photographic Library (NPA) exhibitions will remain open until 9pm. There will be tours of the Yeats exhibition (6pm and 8pm), a tour of ***Strangers to Citizens: the Irish in Europe 1600–1800*** (7pm) and also a screening of *Lumière Brothers Irish films*, the earliest known Irish motion pictures in existence which were made in September 1897. The screening, which will take place in the Seminar Room at 7pm, is being made possible by kind permission of the Association Frères Lumière.

Library Late

Autobiography, biography and memoir are the themes for the Autumn/Winter series of 'Library Late' interviews. The featured guests will be Stella Tillyard (September), Tim Pat Coogan (October), Jonathan Powell (November) and Brian Keenan (December). For details, see the 'Library Late' brochure or check the Library's website **www.nli.ie**

Music Recitals

To celebrate 200 years of Thomas Moore's Irish Melodies, the Thomas Moore Commemorative Festival will present *My Gentle Harp*, a nationwide tour. Performances will take place in the Library's Seminar Room at 6.30pm on three consecutive Wednesdays – 24 September, 1 October and 8 October. Admission is free, but booking is essential. To reserve a place, telephone 01-603 0277. Further information may be found on **www.thomasmoorefestival.com**

Lifelong learning – 'WB Yeats at the National Library' course

The forthcoming eight-week 'WB Yeats at the National Library' course, hosted by the Library in conjunction with the Department of Adult Education UCD, will focus mainly on the poetry of Yeats. The programme will comprise a series of lectures, seminars and film screenings as well as tours of the Library's Yeats exhibition led by the staff from the Education and Outreach Department. Classes will take place in the Library's Seminar Room every Tuesday from 10am to 12.30pm. The next course begins on Tuesday 7 October. To reserve a place, contact UCD's Adult Education Department on 01-716 7123. Website **www.ucd.ie/adulted**

The Worth Library

On Friday 17 October at 1pm Dr William J McCormack, Librarian, Edward Worth Library will give a lecture entitled *The Worth Library: what the researcher can expect.*

Halloween mid-term break

During this year's Hallow'een mid-term break, children will be invited to join the Library's Education and Outreach staff for a series of guided ghost tours of the Yeats exhibition each day at 1.30 pm from Tuesday 28 October to Friday 31 October and at 12 pm on Saturday 1 November. At the family workshop (11am to 1pm) on Thursday 30 October, children will have the opportunity to draw inspiration from the exhibition's collection of Yeats' masks to create their own Halloween masks. To reserve a place, telephone 01-603 0277. Further information may be found on **www.nli.ie**

Drama production

The Dublin Lyric Players will present *Oedipus Rex* and *Oedipus at Colonus* by WB Yeats (6.30pm) Library's Seminar Room from Tuesday 4 November to Thursday 6 November. There will also be a preview performance on Monday 3 November. Tickets cost €10. To reserve a place, telephone 01-603 0277. In advance of the production, selected readings from the plays will take place in the Library's Seminar Room at 1.10pm from 20 October to 31 October, excluding Thursday 23 October and Thursday 30 October. Admission is free of charge.

NPA exhibition

The NPA's forthcoming exhibition, due to open in November, will feature aerial photographs selected from various Library collections including the Morgan Collection.

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**

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