

NEWS

Number 26: Winter 2006

National Library of Ireland
NUACHT Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann



2006 marked the centenary of the death of the Norwegian poet and playwright Henrik Ibsen.

In September, the Library, along with cultural institutions in many countries around the world participated in the international centenary celebration of this hugely influential writer with a number of Ibsen-related events including *Portraits of Ibsen*, an exhibition of a series of 46 oil paintings by Haakon Gullvaag, one of Norway's leading contemporary artists, and *Writers in Conversation* an event held in the Library's Seminar Room at which RTÉ broadcaster Myles Dungan interviewed the acclaimed Norwegian writer Lars Saabye Christensen.

During both September and October, the Library hosted a series of lunchtime readings by the Dublin Lyric Players exploring themes in Ibsen's writings, and drawing on his poetry and prose as well as his plays. A series of lunchtime lectures looked at Ibsen's influence on Irish writers and his impact upon aspects of the Irish Revival.

The *Portraits of Ibsen* exhibition coincided with the 4-day State Visit to Ireland by Their Majesties King Harald V and Queen Sonja of Norway. On 19 September, Her Majesty Queen Sonja visited the Library to officially open the *Portraits of Ibsen* exhibition, to visit *Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats* and also to view a number of Ibsen-related exhibits from the Library's collections; these included *The Quintessence of Ibsenism* by George Bernard Shaw (1891), *Ibsen's New Drama* by James Joyce (1900); Padraic Colum's copy of the *Prose Dramas of Ibsen*, given as a gift to WB Yeats, and various playbills for Dublin performances of Ibsen. Later in the week, Vigdis Moe Skarstein, National Librarian of Norway spoke at the Library's RI Best Memorial lecture on "Knowledge and Culture: the National Library of Norway into the 21st Century".

National Library Events

Happy Birthday 'Library Late'

'Library Late' has just celebrated its first birthday. Some of today's most critically acclaimed writers have participated in this hugely popular series of public interviews in the Library. Writers featured to date include John Banville, Eavan Boland, John Connolly, Anne Enright, Claire Kilroy, Patrick McCabe, Colum McCann, Frank McGuinness, Edna O'Brien, Joseph O'Connor and Andrew O'Hagan. In December, Fintan O'Toole interviews Bernard Mac Laverty and in January, Kay Sheehy interviews Roddy Doyle. Details of the Spring 2007 series will be announced shortly.

With refreshments to follow, music and chat, 'Library Late' promises some of the liveliest evenings of the year. Admission is free but seats must be reserved in advance. To reserve a seat at a forthcoming 'Library Late' event, please telephone (01)603 0317 for further information. See also the 'What's New' pages on the Library website: www.nli.ie

The Library is grateful to the Merrion Hotel and to Brambles Café for generously supporting 'Library Late'.

The featured writers for the September and October 'Library Late' events were John Connolly and John Boyne; they were interviewed by RTÉ presenter and producer Kay Sheehy and by RTÉ broadcaster Myles Dungan.



John Connolly is pictured here answering audience questions at the September event.



John Boyne (centre) with Aongus Ó hAonghusa, (left) Director, National Library of Ireland and RTÉ broadcaster Myles Dungan (right) photographed at the October event.

State Visit by King and Queen of Norway

On 19 September Mr John O'Donoghue TD, Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism welcomed Her Majesty Queen Sonja of Norway to the Library; the occasion was part of a 4-day State Visit to Ireland by Their Majesties King Harald V and Queen Sonja of Norway.



During her visit to the Library, Her Majesty Queen Sonja officially opened the *Portraits of Ibsen* exhibition and she also took time to view the recently opened exhibition on WB Yeats.



Her Majesty Queen Sonja of Norway is photographed here with the artist Haakon Gullvaag at the official opening of his exhibition *Portraits of Ibsen*.

'Writers in conversation'



One of the highlights of the Henrik Ibsen centenary celebrations in September was 'Writers in Conversation' at which RTÉ broadcaster Myles Dungan interviewed the acclaimed Norwegian writer Lars Saabye Christensen; he is photographed here answering questions from members of the public who made up the audience on the night.



National Photographic Archive acquires Galbraith photographic collection

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 Airforce; later he worked for newspapers in Ann Arbor, Michigan as well as for other Michigan newspapers. Most of his photographic work, including *A Common Eye*, *An Uncommon Vision* and *Sláinte: an Irish Portfolio* has been exhibited in various Michigan libraries and museums.

In recent months, the National Photographic Archive (NPA) has acquired a significant collection of photographs taken by him during his visits to Ireland in 1970, 1978 and 1997.

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, and to friends and the community. As a result, his portraits are invariably highly engaging.

A key feature of this newly acquired collection is the way in which it captures various aspects of Irish life which have changed dramatically in the past ten years. In particular, it provides insights into daily life in rural areas as well as in small towns and villages in Cork, Kerry and Clare, with numerous images of street activities as well as different aspects of family life, pub life and the traditional Irish music scene.





‘WB Yeats at the National Library’ - collaboration with UCD

University College Dublin (UCD) has introduced a new course on the life and work of WB Yeats as part of its adult education programme for the academic year 2006/2007.

Entitled ‘WB Yeats at the National Library’, it is designed to run in conjunction with the Library’s acclaimed exhibition *Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats*.

This is the Library’s first such collaboration with UCD, and it is being run by the Adult Education Centre (now part of the UCD School of Education and Lifelong Learning). The programme features lectures, seminars and film screenings, as well as a series of tours of the exhibition in Kildare Street.

Each of the three eight-week courses follows the same format, beginning with Yeats’ poetry. Particular attention is devoted to topics such as his response to the Easter Rising, as expressed in ‘Easter, 1916’, ‘Sixteen Dead Men’ and ‘The Rose Tree’. Also explored are his portrayal of Maud Gonne (analysing many of his poems including ‘When You Are Old’ and ‘No Second Troy’), and his relationship with Lady Gregory and Coole Park (examining poems such as ‘The Wild Swans at Coole’, ‘Coole Park, 1929’ and ‘Coole and Ballylee, 1931’).

Yeats had a lifelong interest in the occult; one of the course modules considers this aspect of his life along with his wife’s automatic writing, which was an inspiration for some of his later work. Another module covers his plays (with particular emphasis

on his work *Kathleen Ni Houlihan*) and his involvement in the Senate (with particular emphasis on his Senate speeches).

One unique aspect of the course is that following each lecture participants are guided by a member of the Library’s curatorial staff while they study some of the original manuscripts of Yeats’ work on display in the exhibition.

By the time participants have completed their eight-week course, they have become more familiar with the poetry and plays of Yeats, his life and his family background; they have learned how to read his poetry and drama, and they have learned more about the cultural and political background of some of Yeats’ most important works.

The first of the three courses began on 26 September and ran until 14 November. The next course runs from 30 January to 20 March; the summer course starts on 24 April and continues until 12 June.

All lectures in the forthcoming series take place on Tuesday evenings from 6.30pm to 9pm and are held in the Library’s Seminar Room.

No academic qualifications are necessary for those wishing to register for one of the 40 places available on each course. The fee (€160) is payable to the Adult Education Centre UCD. For information and bookings, call 01-716 7123; booking forms may also be downloaded from www.ucd.ie/adulted.

‘WB Yeats ag an Leabharlann Náisiúnta’ - comhoibriú le UCD

Tá cúrsa nua tugtha isteach ag Coláiste na hOllscoile Baile Átha Cliath ar shaol agus ar shaothar WB Yeats mar chuid dá chlár oideachais aosta don bhliain acadúil 2006/2007.

Is é teideal an chláir ‘WB Yeats ag an Leabharlann Náisiúnta’, agus tá sé deartha i gcomhar le taispeántas clúiteach na Leabharlainne **Yeats: the life and work of William Butler Yeats**.

Is é seo an chéad uair a raibh comhoibriú idir an Leabharlann agus UCD, agus is é an tIonad Oideachais Aosta atá ina bhun (atá anois mar chuid de Scoil Oideachais agus Foghlaim ar Feadh an tSaoil UCD). Tá léachtaí, seimineáir agus scannáin, chomh maith le sraith turas den taispeántas féin i Sraith Chill Dara mar chuid den chlár.

Tá an leagan amach céanna ar gach ceann de na cúrsaí ocht seachtaine ar fad, ag tosú le filíocht Yeats. Táthar ag tabhairt aird ar leith ar ábhair mar an freagra a thug sé ar Éirí Amach na Cásca, mar a léiríodh in ‘Easter, 1916’, ‘Sixteen Dead Men’ agus ‘The Rose Tree’. Déantar iniúchadh freisin ar an léiriú a thug sé ar Maud Gonne (ag déanamh anailíse ar go leor dá chuid filíochta lena n-áirítear ‘When You Are Old’ agus ‘No Second Troy’), agus an caidreamh a bhí aige le Lady Gregory agus Coole Park (ag scrúdú filíochta mar ‘The Wild Swans at Coole’, ‘Coole Park, 1929’ agus ‘Coole and Ballylee, 1931’).

Bhí spéis ag Yeats i gcaitheamh a shaoil ar fad i gcúrsaí asarlaíochta; breithníonn ceann de mhodúil an chúrsa an ghné sin dá shaol chomh maith le scríbhneoireacht uathoibríoch a bhanchéile, a bhí mar ionsparáid ag cuid dá shaothar níos déanaí. Clúdaíonn modúl eile a chuid drámaí (le béim ar leith ar a shaothar *Kathleen Ní*

Houlihan) agus an bhaint a bhí aige leis an Seanad (le béim ar leith ar a chuid aitheasc sa Seanad).

Gné amháin sainiúil den chúrsa is ea go bhfaigheann gach duine de na rannpháirtithe sna léachtaí treoir ó bhall d’fhoireann feighlithe na Leabharlainne le linn dóibh a bheith i mbun staidéir ar chuid de bhunlámhscríbhinní shaothar Yeats atá ar taispeántas sa taispeántas.

Faoin am a bheidh an cúrsa ocht seachtaine curtha díobh ag na rannpháirtithe, beidh níos mó eolais acu ar fhilíocht agus ar dhrámaí Yeats, ar a shaol agus ar chúlra a theaghligh; beidh a fhios acu conas a chuid filíochta agus a chuid drámaí a léamh, agus beidh a fhios acu níos mó faoi chúlra cultúrtha agus polaitiúil roinnt de na saothair ba thábhachtaí a bhí ag Yeats.

Cuireadh tús leis an gcéad cheann de na trí chúrsaí an 26 Meán Fómhair agus bhí sé ar siúl go dtí an 14 Samhain. Beidh an chéad chúrsa eile ar siúl ón 30 Eanáir go dtí 20 Márta; tosóidh cúrsa an tsamhraidh an 24 Aibreán agus leanfaidh sé go dtí 12 Meitheamh.

Beidh gach léacht sa tsraith cúrsaí atá le teacht ar siúl gach oíche Dé Máirt ón 6.30in go dtí 9in agus beidh siad ar siúl i Seomra Seimineáir na Leabharlainne.

Ní gá dóibh sin ar mian leo clárú do cheann de na 40 áiteanna atá ar fáil ar gach cúrsa aon cháilíochtaí acadúla a bheith acu. Beidh an táille (€160) iníochta do Aonad Oideachais Aosta UCD. Chun eolas agus áirithintí a dhéanamh, glaoigh ar 01-716 7123; is féidir foirmeacha áirithinte a íoslódáil freisin ó www.ucd.ie/adulted.



The Redmond Papers

Cataloguing of the papers of John Redmond has recently been completed. Redmond was the outstanding Irish politician of post-Parnellite Irish politics and the elected leader of the Irish majority from 1900 to 1918 – a period longer than that of any national leader with the exception of O’Connell and de Valera.

The Library’s Redmond Collection reveals much about the distinctive political temperament of a man whose distinguished record of service remains largely unrecognised. The papers constitute a largely complete and hugely significant political archive representing a span of forty years, covering his emergence as a Parnellite, his assumption of the chairmanship of the re-united Irish Parliamentary Party, his campaigns for peasant proprietorship and later for Home Rule, the Great War, the 1916 Rising, the Irish Convention, through to his death in 1918 at the age of 61.

Altogether, the collection comprises approximately 12,000 items, the bulk of which comprises of correspondence relating to Redmond’s public career.

The correspondence falls into three main categories. The first encompasses the period 1882-1918 and comprises letters from minor correspondents covering extremely varied subject matter, with letters from party loyalists and grass roots contacts from all over Ireland predominating. These letters form a distinct category and are thus of particular importance to historians interested in the workings of the United Irish League, which was effectively the Irish Parliamentary Party’s local constituency machine during the period 1898 to 1920. Other letters and reports offer intriguing insights into the local concerns, petty rivalries and flagrant jobbing which frequently marked local nationalist politics in the Redmondite era.

The second category includes letters from major correspondents, or from figures of political or national significance. These letters relate to Redmond’s position as a leading public representative, as a distinguished orator and as the political leader of Irish nationalism. As one would expect, they chronicle Redmond’s stewardship of the national campaigns for peasant proprietorship and for Home Rule, a period during which he corresponded with many of the foremost figures in British parliamentary life.

The letters from Joseph Devlin, John Dillon and Laurence Ginnell reveal much about the internal workings of the Irish Party’s highly effective political apparatus. In addition, there are numerous references to Redmond’s efforts to encourage recruitment – particularly into the newly formed 16th (Irish) Division. The collection also contains a great deal of important material relating to the 1916 Rising and its aftermath. Of particular importance are letters from General Sir John Maxwell concerning Redmond’s attempts to secure the release of prisoners.

The third category includes letters from individual correspondents or from Irish political organisations in other countries. These letters contain a great deal of information relating to the influence of the Irish abroad on Home Rule nationalism; a significant number of them refer to the Irish in the United States and Australia.

Tours taken by Redmond to Australia (1883-4) and to America (1899, 1904 and 1910) had an enduring effect on his political psyche. Many of the letters relate to arrangements for his visits, or to the missions undertaken by party lieutenants to America, Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere. A distinct subsection of the material deals with correspondents from the United States, where both kinds of Irish struggle – the militant and the constitutional strands – received support, with the Irish-American community in particular providing significant financial backing. Many of the letters highlight the vital importance of Irish-American support in fortifying Redmond’s constitutional nationalist movement.

It was the Easter Rising which effectively marked the end of Redmond’s authority, as he himself always acknowledged. With his policy of conciliation in shreds, he died in March 1918, in his own words a heartbroken man, having given Ireland a lifetime of political service.

Work on cataloguing the Redmond collection was carried out by Dr Brian Kirby, holder of the Library’s Research Studentship in Irish History for 2005-2006.



Redmond inspects the
Irish National Volunteers



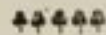
Redmond presents a
flag to the Irish National
Volunteers





Leaflet issued by the Irish National Volunteers urging its members to join the British Army

TO THE  
Irish National Volunteers.



You are in arms for the defence of your country. It is for you to consider what the obligation which you have freely laid upon yourselves entails. At this moment your country is threatened by enemies more powerful and more hostile than any who have attacked her in the past. Their victory would mean the complete conquest of Ireland, the end of her claims to be a self-governing nation, and her subjugation to the rank of a conquered German Colony. Nothing stands between your enemies and an invasion of your country but the Allied Forces both on land and sea. If they are defeated no Volunteer force however good will keep back the doom of Ireland. Do you want it to be said that the Irish Volunteers left their kinsmen and their allies to do the fighting on the plains of Belgium and France?

You do not! As Irishmen you are too proud to allow others to do that which falls to you Volunteers as a duty.

One of your Committee, Professor KETTLE, has already joined the Irish Brigade, many of your comrades are already in its ranks. Ireland expects you to follow their example. The place to defend your Country is on the battlefields of Europe.

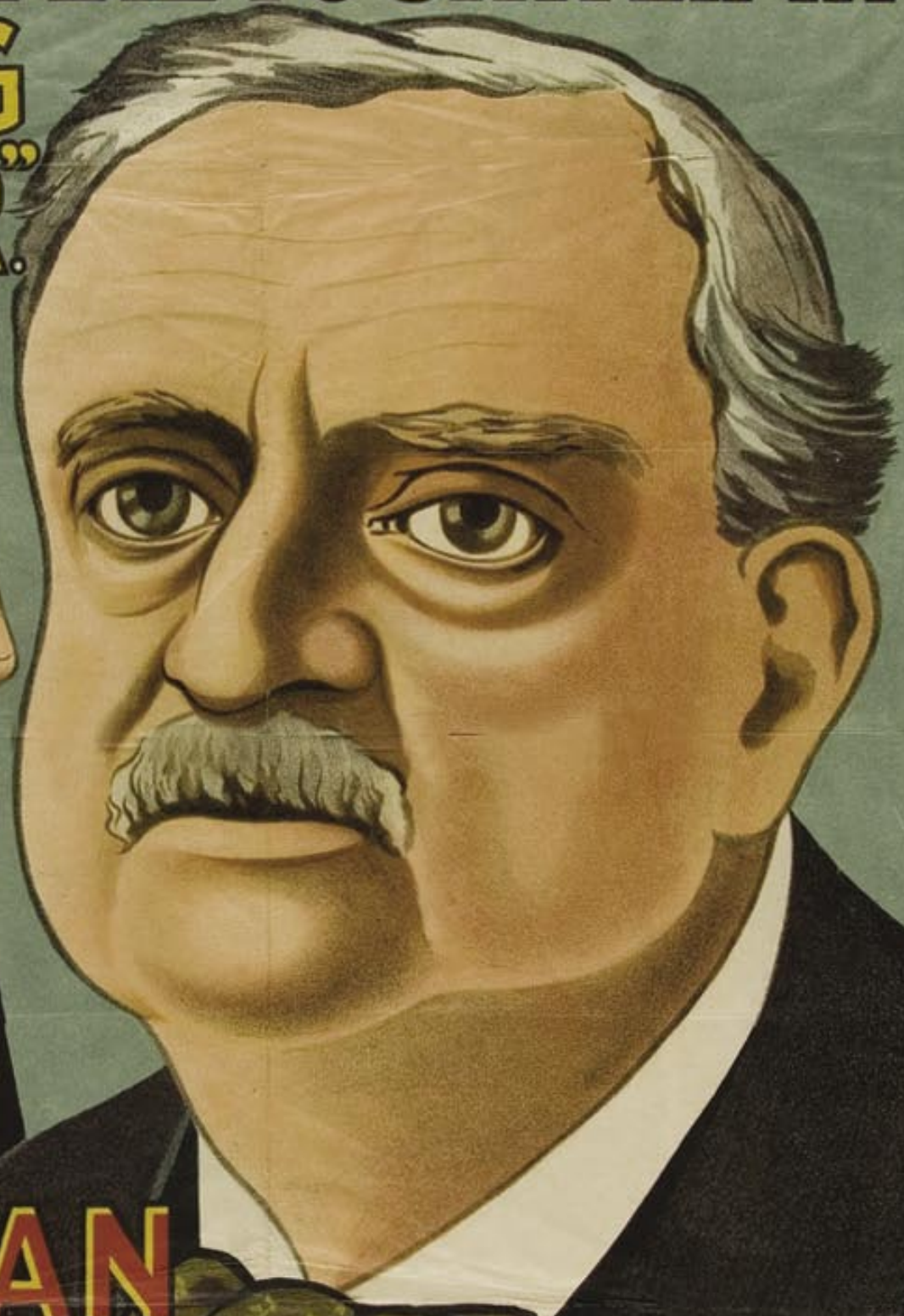
Men of Ireland do not fail your Motherland.

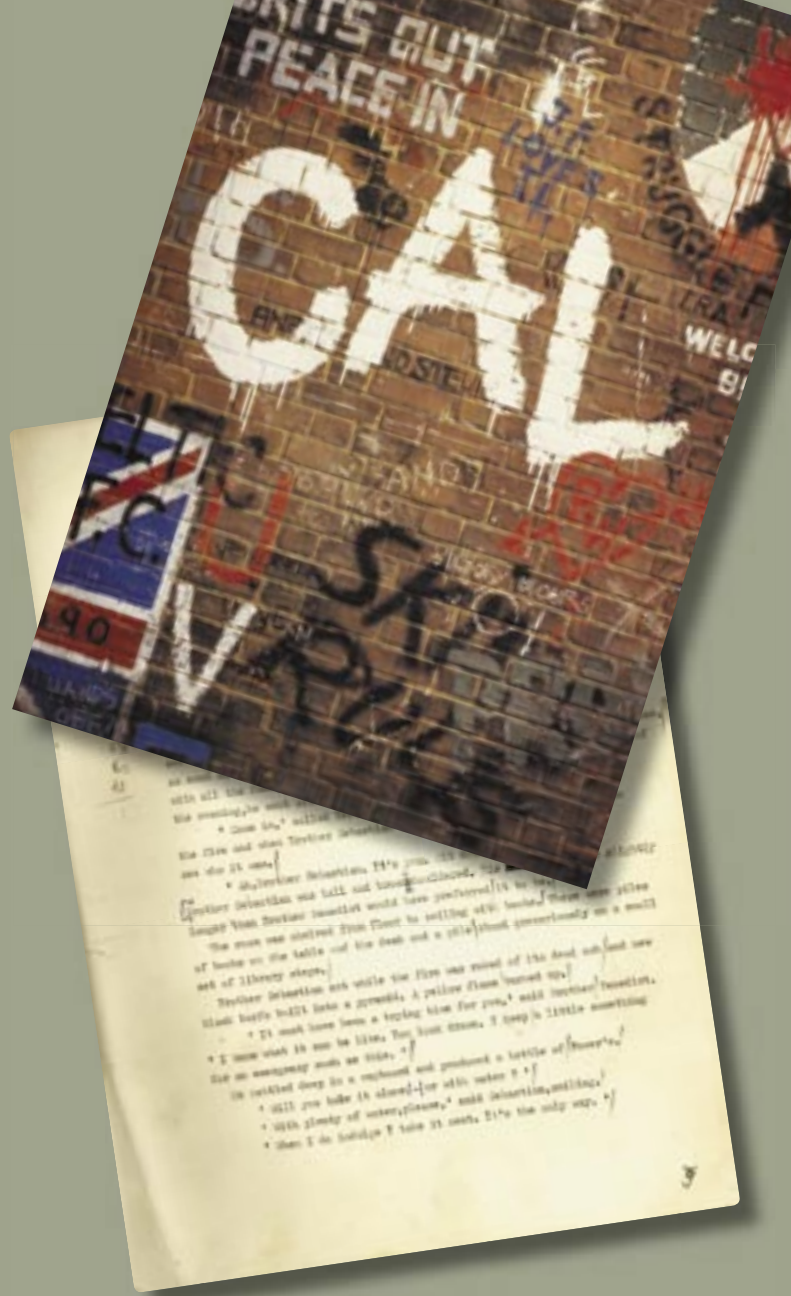
**"YOUR FIRST DUTY
IS TO TAKE YOUR PART IN
ENDING
THE WAR."**

*M^r. J. E. REDMOND, M. P.
at Waterford, 23rd August, 1915.*

**JOIN AN
IRISH REGIMENT**

Poster urging Irish men to join the British Army. Redmond allowed his images to be used 'Kitchener style' for the campaign.





Library purchases Bernard Mac Lavery literary papers

The Library is pleased to have acquired a valuable corpus of literary papers relating to the distinguished contemporary writer Bernard Mac Lavery, who is active in many different media – novels, short stories, children’s stories, screenplays and film scripts.

Mac Lavery, who was born in Belfast, currently lives in Glasgow, where the papers were previously held.

The archive comprises a wide range of original manuscripts and typescripts of his novels, short stories, children’s stories, screenplays and film scripts. Included are extensive amended typescripts of his first novel *Lamb* (1980), a powerful and tragic story set against the background of a Christian Brothers’ school in Ireland, which was subsequently made into a film. Also included are extensively amended drafts of his novel *Cal* (1983), set against the background of the Troubles in Northern Ireland (which was also made into a film), and extensive drafts, correspondence and notes relating to his novels *Grace Notes* (1997) and *The Anatomy School* (2001).

The Bernard Mac Lavery papers include extensive correspondence with his publisher relating to his short story collections, *Secrets* (1977), *A Time to Dance* (1982), *The Great Profundo* (1987) and *Walking the Dog* (1994).

The Mac Lavery papers contain numerous scripts for film, television and radio, including *My Dear Palestrina* (BBC TV, 1980), *Phonefun Limited* (BBC TV, 1982), *No Joke* (BBC Radio, 1983), *Lamb* (Flickers, 1985), *The Daily Woman* (BBC TV, 1986), *The Break* (BBC Radio, 1988), *Sometime in August* (BBC TV, 1989), *The Real Charlotte* (Granada TV, 1989), *Hostages* (Granada TV, 1992, HBO USA, 1993), *Grace Notes* (BBC Radio, 2000) and *Bye-child* (film, 2003). They also contain several scripts for film, television and radio which have not yet been produced.

Children’s literature features extensively in the collection. Included are manuscripts and typescripts of numerous books, stories, television

and radio scripts for children, in addition to a collection of travel writing commissioned by Swiss Air.

The collection features a substantial corpus of incoming and outgoing correspondence (both personal and professional) spanning the period 1980-2001, as well as an ongoing diary/journal from 1974 to 2005. It also features a large collection of reviews, as well as scrapbooks.

The final element of the collection contains several hundred photographs of Bernard Mac Lavery, beginning in the early years of his childhood and continuing through his career. Also included are images of actors and actresses from his films, in addition to a collection of drawings and cartoons created by Mac Lavery himself.

As occurs more and more frequently in current literary collections, much of the material in this collection is computer generated and some of it is on disk or memory stick. Certain parts of the material on deposit may be withheld from public access for a period yet to be decided, while the collection as a whole will not be available to the public until it has been sorted and catalogued.

Note: Bernard Mac Lavery is the featured writer for the December 2006 ‘Library Late’ event. He will be interviewed by *Irish Times* columnist Fintan O’Toole on 6 December.

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.

One of the highlights of the Society’s Autumn/Winter programme was a lecture entitled *From Wireless to Web 1916-2006: Easter Week and Irish Broadcasting* given by Brian Lynch, RTÉ. The subject of his lecture, which took place on Wednesday 20 September, was the commemoration in the media of the 1916 Rising.

This event was followed on 18 October by a lecture entitled *And the Walls Come Tumbalin’ Down – The Battering Ram and Irish Evictions, 1880-1890* which was given by Professor L Perry Curtis Jr of Brown University. It was followed on 22 November by a lecture entitled *Killing and Bloody Sunday – November 1920* given by Dr Anne Dolan, Lecturer in Modern History at TCD.

The Latin factor: a chapter of autobiography is the title of the second John J O’Meara Memorial Lecture, which is to be given by Professor Denis Donohue of New York University. This event takes place on 31 January 2007.

The Society’s Spring programme features a lecture by Dr Ralph Loeber and Dr Magda Loeber on their recently published book *A Guide to Irish Fiction 1650-1900*. This event takes place on 28 February 2007.

On 28 March Dr Brian Lalor will deliver a lecture on Dublin’s Graphic Studio and the origins of fine print making. In May, Professor Terry Dolan, Department of English and Drama, UCD will give a lecture entitled *Why the Irish Speak English and How*.

Details of upcoming 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 | €1,000 p.a. |

(by invitation only)

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: The Secretary, NLI Society, National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. **Email:** nlisociety@nli.ie

Address for correspondence:

Sandra McDermott, Hon Secretary,
 National Library of Ireland Society, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.
Tel: 01-603 0227 **Email:** smcdermott@nli.ie

RI Best Memorial Lecture

This year’s RI Best Memorial Lecture was given by Vigdis Moe Skarstein, National Librarian of Norway who was in Dublin as part of a cultural delegation attending various celebrations to mark the centenary of the death of Henrik Ibsen and also to mark the State Visit by Their Majesties King Harald V and Queen Sonja of Norway.

Ms Skarstein delivered the Lecture in the Library’s Seminar Room on 20 September 2006.

Ms Skarstein is a member of numerous national boards and government committees including the Board of NRK (Norwegian Broadcasting), the Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO, the Board of the Norwegian Council for Higher Education, the Foreign Minister’s Globalisation Committee, and the Minister

for Trade and Industry’s IT Forum. She is also a member of the Norwegian Cultural Council, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs reputation group, the Norwegian University of Science and Technology Board of Globalisation and the Council for Ibsen Studies. She has approximately 80 publications in Norwegian and in English to her name.



Photograph courtesy of the Connacht Tribune

Dónall Ó Luanaigh conferred with Honorary Degree of Master of Literature

In October, Dónall Ó Luanaigh, who held the post of the Keeper of Collections from 1993 to 2006, was conferred with an honorary degree at NUI Galway. He received the Honorary Degree of Master of Literature (honoris causa) for his contribution to research and scholarship as Keeper of Collections at the National Library of Ireland. He is photographed here with Marie Reddan, proposer and NUI Galway Librarian.



POETRY ALOUD Spoken Poetry Competition 2007

Following on the success of the 2006 YEATS ALOUD Spoken Poetry Competition, the National Library of Ireland in association with Poetry Ireland is now finalising plans for the 2007 competition – which again will be for post-primary school pupils. The 2007 competition will be called **POETRY ALOUD** as entrants will choose poems from a given list of Irish poets.

In the first round entrants will speak by heart two poems, one prescribed and one of their own choice. In honour of the centenary of his birth in 2007, the prescribed poet in the first round of the competition will be Louis MacNeice.

To coincide with the Library’s major exhibition *Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats*, which continues through 2007, Yeats will feature as the prescribed poet in the semi-final and final.

The closing date for receipt of entries is 28 February 2007. For further information on the competition and to download an entry form, see the Poetry Ireland website www.poetryireland.ie or the 2007 Library’s website www.nli.ie

Comments and suggestions on *NLI News* should be addressed to Ciara McDonnell. **Email:** cmcdonnell@nli.ie