2006 another remarkable year for the National Library

29 December 2006: 2006 was another remarkable year for the National Library of Ireland. Signal events included the opening of a major exhibition on the life and work of WB Yeats; the acquisition of several major literary archives and photographic collections; an official visit by Her Majesty Queen Sonja of Norway; a major award for the Library's Yeats exhibition at a ceremony held in Bristol; a first prize win at the Irish Design Effectiveness Awards (IDEA) for the 1916 online exhibition.

- In May, John O'Donoghue, TD, Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism opened *Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats* which explores WB Yeats' literary and cultural legacy and features manuscripts from the Library's Yeats collection, the world's most important archive of Yeats material. The exhibition continues until the end of 2008.

- Throughout 2006 the Library continued to host its popular 'Library Late' series of monthly public interviews with critically acclaimed writers. The featured writers this year included Patrick McCabe, Frank McGuinness, Andrew O'Hagan, Colum McCann, Anne Enright, Eavan Boland, Joseph O'Connor, John Connolly, John Boyne, Claire Kilroy and Bernard Mac Laverty.

Centenary celebrations of major literary figures

2006 marked the international centenaries of two major literary figures – Norwegian poet and playwright Henrik Ibsen and Samuel Beckett.

- In March, the National Library was one of a number of cultural institutions, nationally and internationally, which marked the 100th anniversary of Samuel Beckett's birth. The *Centenary Shadows* exhibition, which was held at the National Photographic Archive, featured some 40 photographs, including many portraits of Beckett taken by the Irish photographer John Minihan.

- In September, the Library marked the centenary of the death of the Norwegian poet and playwright Henrik Ibsen 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 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 which drew upon his poetry as well as his plays.

- Also in September, Mr John O'Donoghue, TD, Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism welcomed Her Majesty Queen Sonja of Norway to the National Library. The occasion was part of a four-day State Visit to Ireland by Their Majesties King Harald V and Queen Sonja of Norway. During her visit to the Library, the *Portraits of Ibsen* exhibition was officially opened and the Queen also took time to visit the Library's Yeats exhibition.

Signal acquisitions

The National Library's collections were particularly enriched by six signal acquisitions this year. These included:

- a six-sheet collection of previously unknown James Joyce manuscripts, described by experts as "crucial elements in Joyce's first efforts at writing a new work after *Ulysses*". The manuscripts date from 1923, the year after *Ulysses* was published. This was the Library's third major acquisition of Joyce manuscripts since 2000.

- the papers of Colm Tóibín, novelist, journalist, winner of the 2006 Impac prize for literature and one of Ireland's most internationally acclaimed contemporary writers.

- the literary papers of the distinguished contemporary writer Bernard Mac Laverty who is active in many different media – novels, short stories, children's stories, screenplays and film scripts.

- the archives of the Project Arts Centre, Temple Bar in Dublin – an institution that has earned a reputation for innovative and challenging work, providing a platform for generations of artists across a range of disciplines including theatre, music and the visual arts.

- a collection of 25,000 photographs by Colman Doyle, widely acknowledged as one of the most important Irish photographers of the 20th century and probably Ireland's first documentary-style photographer.

- an archive of major significance to students of the 1916 Rising comprising 300 letters between Tom Clarke (first signatory of the Proclamation and a key figure in the Irish revolutionary organisation) and his wife; it also contains other correspondence including letters written by Clarke when in prison.

Award wins for the National Library

On 30 November 2006, the National Library won a major award for the outstanding way in which it informs and involves the public. In their citation, the judges singled out the National Library's current major exhibition on WB Yeats as a magnificent example of the way in which the Library interacts with the public. The Interpret Britain and Ireland Award was presented to the Director of the National Library of Ireland, Aongus Ó hAonghusa by TV personality and heritage campaigner Loyd Grossman on behalf of the Association for Heritage Interpretation (AHI) at a ceremony held in Bristol.

On 10 November 2006, the National Library was awarded first prize in the Best Website category at the Irish Design Effectiveness Awards (IDEA) for its online exhibition *The 1916 Rising: personalities and perspectives*. The exhibition, which went live on Easter Monday 17 April 2006 and is accessible via the Library's website www.nli.ie/1916, is designed to mark the 90th anniversary of the 1916 Rising. It features material selected from the Library's extensive collections relating to the period and comprises about 400 images and almost 38,000 words of narrative and biographical notes.

YEATS ALOUD

In April and May, over 700 pupils from 105 secondary schools in 23 counties throughout Ireland took part in various heats of the YEATS ALOUD poetry speaking event developed in conjunction with Poetry Ireland to coincide with the opening of the Library's major exhibition *Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats*. The 2007 competition will be called POETRY ALOUD and entrants will choose poems from a given list of Irish poets.

Library collaborations with universities

During the year, the National Library collaborated with two universities – NUI Maynooth (NUIM) and UCD – to host a series of free public lectures at the Library's Seminar Room in Kildare Street, Dublin. The NUIM series focused on various aspects of Dublin city linked to the Certificate in Dublin Studies offered by NUIM and Boston College's Centre for Irish Studies. The eight-week UCD course (which runs again in Spring and Summer 2007) focuses on the life and works of WB Yeats and is part of UCD's 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 award-winning exhibition *Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats*.

National Library of Ireland acquires extensive collection of Beckett material

22 December 2006 A collection of some 800 printed and ephemeral items by and about Samuel Beckett, including more than 200 items personally inscribed by the famously reclusive writer, has been acquired by the National Library of Ireland.

Such is the nature of the collection and the extensive number of items contained in it – some of which have been described by experts as very rare – that it now makes the National Library an important centre for Beckett studies.

The material was assembled over a 40-year period by the late Alan Clodd, the Dublin-born book collector, dealer, publisher and founder of the Enitharmon Press, one of the most distinctive private presses in England, with a stable of writers that included Samuel Beckett, Jorge Luis Borges, Federico Garcia Lorca and Harold Pinter. Alan Clodd enjoyed a cordial, personal acquaintance with Samuel Beckett and many of the items in the National Library's recently acquired collection are signed by Beckett for Clodd.

As well as printed books and periodicals, the collection includes proof copies, galley proofs and production scripts for Beckett plays. These production scripts show another facet of his many achievements: Beckett as theatre director. Four of these very rare items are signed by Beckett for Alan Clodd.

The material acquired by the Library also includes photographs, correspondence, posters and ephemeral items such as theatrical programmes, which are rarely found in library collections.

Speaking earlier today, the Director of the National Library of Ireland, Aongus Ó hAonghusa said:

"The acquisition of the Beckett/Clodd collection is a major boost for Irish scholars and for the Library. It is particularly appropriate that the National Library should have made this acquisition in 2006 – the centenary of the dramatist's birth.

"Inscribed copies of Beckett's works are very uncommon. All the more interesting then that Beckett was more than happy to inscribe the books that Clodd always took with him on his numerous visits to see Beckett in Paris.

"This is an integral collection, representing a significant amount of the output of a major Irish writer, put together by a major, though as yet little-known, Irish collector. The comprehensive nature of the collection will enable researchers to further appreciate the contribution of this illustrious Dublin writer and Nobel Prize winner to world literature", Mr Ó hAonghusa concluded.

The collection was acquired from the London-based booksellers, Maggs Bros, acting on behalf of the Clodd family.

National Library of Ireland acquires Bernard Mac Laverty literary papers

6 December 2006: The National Library of Ireland has acquired a valuable corpus of literary papers relating to the distinguished contemporary writer Bernard Mac Laverty, who is active in many different media – novels, short stories, children's stories, screenplays and film scripts.

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

The acquisition is yet another major boost for the Library, which already holds manuscripts of other major Irish writers including WB Yeats, James Joyce, Austin Clarke, Sean O'Casey, Brian Friel, Colm Tóibín and Marina Carr.

The Bernard Mac Laverty 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); extensive drafts, correspondence and notes relating to his novels *Grace Notes* (1997) and *The Anatomy School* (2001); 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 archive contains 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 archive. 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 Swissair.

The archive 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 (some from European sources), as well as scrapbooks.

There are also several hundred photographs of Mac Laverty, beginning in the early years of his childhood and continuing through his career, and images of actors and actresses from his films, in addition to a collection of drawings and cartoons created by Mac Laverty himself.

As occurs more and more often in current literary collections, much of the material in the Mac Laverty archive 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.

National Library of Ireland receives major award for its Yeats exhibition at ceremony held in Bristol earlier today

30 November 2006: The National Library of Ireland has won a major award for the outstanding way in which it informs and involves the public. In their citation, the judges singled out the National Library's current major exhibition on WB Yeats as a magnificent example of the way in which the Library interacts with the public.

The Interpret Britain and Ireland Award was presented on behalf of the Association for Heritage Interpretation (AHI) to the Director of the National Library of Ireland, Aongus Ó hAonghusa by TV personality and heritage campaigner Loyd Grossman at a ceremony held in Bristol earlier today (Thursday 30 November).

The Association for Heritage Interpretation Awards recognise the very best examples of interpretation – the art of sharing the stories and significance of natural and cultural heritage. Winners had to score high marks against a range of rigorous criteria including imagination and innovation, good interpretive planning and a clear commitment to accessibility, training and maintenance.

Speaking at today's ceremony Loyd Grossman said: "It is extremely gratifying to see such excellent interpretive practice being put in place by organisations large and small. It is also exciting that so many people are working to encourage diversity by making their sites and interpretation accessible to everyone."

The awards scheme, now in its 22nd year, is run by the AHI, with support from English Heritage, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales.

The National Library of Ireland's Yeats exhibition opened in May 2006. It was designed by the Dublin-based company Martello Media, and was sponsored by both Anglo Irish Bank and the *Irish Independent*. The exhibition which has already attracted some 30,000 visitors continues until the end of 2008.

In their citation, the AHI judges describe how the exhibition uses a variety of means of displaying Yeats' life and work – screens showing the text against his own or actors' voices reading some of his best known poems, artefacts such as the carved lapis lazuli stone that gave rise to the famous late poem, manuscripts, first drafts, letters, cartoons, paintings and photographs, many given or lent by the Yeats family.

"These all provide a stimulating experience for the visitor. Especially impressive is the information technology that enables one to scrutinise manuscripts that are behind glass more closely. The whole exhibition is totally outstanding and an unmissable experience for any visitor to Dublin interested in Irish history and culture", the judges concluded.

National Library of Ireland wins prize at IDEA (Irish Design Effectiveness Award)

10 November 2006: The National Library of Ireland has been awarded first prize in the best Website category at the Irish Design Effectiveness Awards (IDEA) for its online exhibition *The 1916 Rising: personalities and perspectives*.

The exhibition, which went live on Easter Monday 17 April 2006 and is accessible via the Library's website www.nli.ie/1916, is designed to mark the 90th anniversary of the 1916 Rising. It features selected material from the Library's extensive collections relating to the period and comprises about 400 images and almost 38,000 words of narrative and biographical notes.

While both the content and style of the exhibition are designed to appeal to a wide audience here in Ireland and abroad, it has also been extremely well received by primary and second level school teachers who use it as a tool for teaching history.

Among the hundreds of items which are accessible on the website are: the constitution of the Irish Republican Brotherhood as it was in 1916; a memorandum by Eoin MacNeill on the circumstances in which the Irish volunteers would be justified in taking part in an insurrection; an autograph draft of Patrick Pearse's poem 'The Mother'; a request by Pearse to the administrator of the Pro-Cathedral for a priest to hear confessions of members of the GPO garrison on Monday 24 April; the autograph manuscript of Francis Ledwidge's poem in memory of Thomas MacDonagh.

The exhibition was designed by Dublin-based graphics design company Dara Creative.

2006 marks the 12th year of the IDEA Awards scheme which provides a platform from which design solutions are measured for their economic effectiveness and perceptible influence. IDEA aims to highlight the commercial and communication effectiveness of design and, in particular, the contribution of good design to a corporate/marketing communication project.

The 1916 Rising: personalities and perspectives has also been nominated for a Golden Spider Award in the Best Education Website category.

Her Majesty Queen Sonja of Norway visits the National Library of Ireland

September 19, 2006 :Her Majesty Queen Sonja of Norway will be officially welcomed to the National Library of Ireland today (Tuesday, September 19th, 2006) by John O'Donoghue T.D., Minister for Arts, Sport & Tourism as part of the four-day state visit to Ireland by Their Majesties King Harald V and Queen Sonja of Norway.

The official visit will mark the international centenary celebration of the death of Norwegian poet and playwright Henrik Ibsen (1828 – 1906) with the opening of the exhibition *Portraits of Ibsen* by Haakon Gullvaag, one of Norway's great contemporary painters. Her Majesty Queen Sonja will also take time to visit the National Library's recently opened exhibition on William Butler Yeats, who considered Ibsen to be 'the one great master the modern stage has produced'.

A number of exhibits from the National Library's collection will also be unveiled which convey the influence Ibsen had on many of Ireland's great literary icons. The exhibits will include *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 William Butler Yeats and various playbills for Dublin performances of Ibsen.

Alongside William Shakespeare, Ibsen is the most performed playwright ever. His plays are read in more than 100 languages and Ibsen is performed on roughly 100 stages all over the world every month. Ibsen's plays are performed regularly in Ireland and his work has been adapted by many contemporary Irish writers include Hugh Leonard, Frank McGuinness and Conall Morrison.

A full programme of events to complement the exhibition *Portraits of Ibsen* will take place at the National Library of Ireland during the period September 19th – October 21st, 2006. For details, please see www.nli.ie.

Acclaimed newspaper photographer Colman Doyle presents collection of 25,000 photographs to Mr John O'Donoghue, TD, Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism on behalf of the National Library of Ireland

12 July 2006: Colman Doyle, widely acknowledged as one of the most important Irish photographers of the 20th century, was also probably Ireland's first documentary style photographer - acclaimed for his iconic portraits of political leaders, sporting heroes and literary figures, as well as for his photographs of islanders and ordinary folk in Kerry and throughout the island of Ireland.

This afternoon, 3pm Wednesday 12 July, at an event held in the National Photographic Archive Temple Bar, Colman Doyle officially presented his entire photographic collection (comprising 25,000 images) to the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, Mr John O'Donoghue on behalf of the National Library of Ireland.

The collection represents almost 60 years of Doyle's career as a staff photographer with the *Irish Press* and also as a photographer with *Paris Match*. It includes numerous portraits of Charles J Haughey (to whom he had unprecedented access) as well as memorable images of President Eamon de Valera, President Cearbhaill Ó Dálaigh, Sean Lemass, Jack Lynch, and visiting dignitaries and heads of state including Pope John Paul II, John F Kennedy, Richard Nixon, Princess Grace of Monaco and Margaret Thatcher.

As a sports photographer, Colman Doyle acquired a huge reputation for his action shots of GAA matches and horse races. He was also acclaimed for his photographs of Olympic athletes, having attended every Olympic Games from 1984 to 2000 inclusive.

As well as chronicling major historical events on the island of Ireland, the collection also provides fascinating vignettes of Irish life from the 1950s to the 1990s, covering topics ranging from emigration to changes in daily life in Ireland and on the Blasket Islands. This latter aspect of the collection is in stark contrast to Doyle's photographs of daily life in Northern Ireland during the 1970s and 1980s - a period during which he recorded countless behind-the-scenes images of political meetings and street violence.

Most of the 25,000-item collection acquired by the National Library comprises negatives; the balance (approximately 2,000 items) comprises photographic prints.

Spotlight on Waterford as Mr Martin Cullen TD, Minister for Transport launches National Photographic Archive exhibition featuring 19th and 20th century profiles of the city and county

11 July 2006: When the Waterford-based family firm of AH Poole ceased operating their 70-year-old commercial photography business in 1954, the National Library of Ireland purchased all 65,000 glass negatives in the Poole family's photographic collection - the largest single collection of photographs of its type in the country. Along with the wonderful photographs acquired, the National Library obtained the company's ledgers in which are recorded the

names and addresses of portrait subjects and, in many cases, the dates on which the portraits were taken and other details.

From today (Tuesday 11 July), when Mr Martin Cullen, TD, Minister for Transport officially opened the 'Poole's Photographic Stores: photographing Waterford' exhibition at the National Photographic Archive Temple Bar, members of the public will have a unique opportunity to view a selection of images from this major historical archive of portraits and photographs of late-19th and early-20th century Waterford streetscapes, buildings and local landmarks.

The 80 images on view include photographs of survivors of two shipping disasters - the 1915 sinking of the Lusitania and the 1912 sinking of the Titanic; studio portraits of local individuals; photographs of individuals and groups from various local businesses, schools, clubs and societies; a wide variety of other photographs which reveal a lot of detail about the commercial life and society of Waterford city and county, including views of Tramore, Dungarvan, Dunmore East and Lismore.

The photographs also reveal a great deal about daily life in Waterford and the development of the area - particularly during the Industrial Revolution, a period which had a significant impact on this port city. By the mid-19th century, for example, Waterford had acquired its first rail links to other major towns and cities, thus making Waterford city, Waterford port and other nearby tourist destinations such as Tramore more accessible to the general public. Also by the mid-19th century, the introduction of cross-channel services from Waterford to ports in Britain made the development of numerous hotels in the city economically viable. Even more importantly from an economic standpoint, access to cross-channel services enabled Waterford to become an industrial and commercial hub for the South East.

'Poole's Photographic Stores: photographing Waterford' focuses on this major historical archive and significant cultural resource - both for the people of Waterford as for Ireland as a whole. The exhibition runs until 16 October 2006 at the National Photographic Archive, Temple Bar. Admission is free.

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As well as chronicling major historical events on the island of Ireland, the collection also provides fascinating vignettes of Irish life from the 1950s to the 1990s, covering topics ranging from emigration to changes in daily life in Ireland and on the Blasket Islands. This latter aspect of the collection is in stark contrast to Doyle's photographs of daily life in Northern Ireland during the 1970s and 1980s – a period during which he recorded countless behind-the-scenes images of political meetings and street violence.

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National Library of Ireland Celebrates the Legacy of WB Yeats

25 May 2006: A major exhibition on WB Yeats (1865 - 1939), one of the great poets of the twentieth century who had a profound influence on world literature, will be unveiled at the National Library of Ireland, today (Thursday, May 25th, 2006) by John O'Donoghue, TD, Minister for Arts, Sport & Tourism, in the presence of Michael Yeats, son of WB Yeats and members of the Yeats family. *Yeats: the Life & Works of William Butler Yeats* will, for the first time, gather and present some of the world's single-most important archive of Yeats material in an accessible public exhibition. It will be sponsored by Anglo Irish Bank.

The exhibition will demonstrate WB Yeats' significance as a world literary figure. In addition to illustrating his creative process, it will show the role he played in shaping ideas of Irish cultural and national identity, and will illustrate the contribution made by Ireland to his work. It will also attempt to contextualise his work by drawing on the Library's historic collections relating to the late 19th and early 20th century, a seminal and exciting period in Irish and world history. '*WB Yeats was one of the most complex and interesting of Ireland's geniuses, and*

one of the most significant influences on the formation of an Irish cultural identity. We are delighted to have an opportunity to illustrate his legacy", added Aongus Ó hAonghusa, Director of the National Library of Ireland.

Electronic 'turning the page' technology and multimedia is used widely throughout the exhibition to convey the interest and excitement of Yeats' life and of his creative process. Visitors can browse digitally through a range of material including a notebook kept by WBY from 1928 to 1930, the fourth in a series of five so-called 'Rapallo notebooks' containing drafts and themes for poems, letters, and various notes and reminiscences. The imaginative intensity of the relationship between WBY and Maud Gonne can be seen the 'Pial Notebook' given to WBY by Maud Gonne in Paris in 1908.

The exhibition illustrates the breadth of Yeats's publishing history while focusing on several books of special significance for their contribution to the book arts. A special installation focuses on *The Tower*, considered to be Yeats's supreme single achievement, and his most influential volume of verse. It explores the complexities of Yeats's creative process as he wrote individual poems, had them published in a variety of periodicals, collected them initially in three Cuala Press volumes, included four of them in *A Vision*, and then arranged them in *The Tower*.

Commenting on their first partnership with the Library, Mary Nolan, Corporate Communications and Marketing Manager with Anglo Irish Bank added "*We are delighted and honoured to be associated with this prestigious exhibition and with the National Library of Ireland's archive of Yeats manuscripts and books, one of Ireland's greatest cultural treasures. As part of our corporate responsibility to the community in which we operate, we firmly believe that our partnership with the National Library is fundamental to the future development of the cultural life of the nation. We are committed to the link between the arts and business and hope that visitors to the exhibition will share our sense of wonder and appreciation of the creativity and legacy of William Butler Yeats, a poet of enormous national and international importance*"

The Yeats collection was generously donated to the National Library by the Yeats family: Mrs George Yeats, WBY's wife, and his son Michael over a period of years, between 1959 and 2004. The extent of these collections is enormous, reflecting the large volume of Yeats's published works - over 200 books excluding volumes he edited and contributed to - and his wide range of interests. The manuscripts run to thousands of pages, and include drafts of all of his best-known poems, such as 'Easter 1916', 'Sailing to Byzantium', 'The Lake Isle of Innisfree' and many, many more.

Yeats: the Life & Works of William Butler Yeats
From Friday, May 26th, 2006
Admission Free
National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2
Monday - Wednesday 10am - 745pm; Thursday & Friday 10am - 4.45pm;
Saturday 10am to 5pm

Inaugural Poetry Speaking Finalists Gather at the National Library of Ireland

> '*I have just heard a poem spoken with so delicate a sense of its rhythm, with so perfect a respect for its meaning that if I were a wise man and could persuade a few people to learn the art I would never open a book of verses again.*'
>
> WB Yeats (1902)

12 May 2006: Over 50 secondary levels schools from 19 counties throughout Ireland will feature in the final rounds of the inaugural *Yeats Aloud* competition, to be held at the National Library of Ireland today, Friday, May 12th, 2006. The poetry speaking event, developed in conjunction with Poetry Ireland to coincide with the opening later this month of the Library's major exhibition *Yeats: the Life & Works of William Butler Yeats*, attracted over 700 entries from schools throughout Ireland. Each of the 700 entrants spoke the prescribed and chosen Yeats poems in regional heats around the country (Athlone, Galway, Kilkenny, Killarney, Monaghan, Laois and Dublin).

'The huge and enthusiastic response from all over the country affirms the pleasure and the power of poetry; *Yeats Aloud* celebrates a great art form and gathers together speakers and '*hearers and hearteners of the work'*, commented Niall MacMonagle, member of the judging panel and National Library of Ireland Board member.

Today, the 85 semi-finalists will be judged by a three-person judging panel consisting of Marie Heaney: writer, editor and broadcaster; Niall MacMonagle: teacher, critic and National Library of Ireland Board member and Joseph Woods: poet and Director of Poetry Ireland. There will be three category winners, which will each receive a cash prize of €300 and a shelf of poetry books for the winning school's library. The overall winner will receive €500, a specially designed trophy by silversmith Seamus Gill and a signed copy of a poetry book by Seamus Heaney.

Editors Notes:

Schools/ Finalists

Dublin City

Alexandra College, Milltown; Ard Scoil Rís, Drumcondra; Coláiste de hÍde, Tallaght; Coolmine Community School, Clonsilla; High School, Rathgar; Holy Child, Killiney; King's Hospital School; Loreto College, St. Stephen's Green; Maryfield College, Drumcondra; Mount Anville School; Muckross Park College, Donnybrook; Our Lady's School, Terenure; St. Andrew's College, Booterstown; St. Columba's College, Rathfarnham; St. Dominic's College, Cabra; Santa Sabina, Sutton; Scoil Chaitríona, Glasnevin; Wesley College, Ballinteer

Dublin County

Loreto College, Swords; St. Joseph's Secondary School, Lucan

Co. Kildare

Holy Family Community School, Newbridge; Scoil Mhuire, Athy

Co. Kilkenny

Presentation Secondary School, Kilkenny; St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny

Co. Laois

Heywood Community School, Ballinakill

Co. Louth

Sacred Heart Secondary School, Drogheda

Co. Meath

Scoil Mhuire, Trim

Co. Monaghan

Castleblayney College; St. Macartan's College, Monaghan

Co. Wicklow

De La Salle, Wicklow; St. Kevin's Community School, Dunlavin

Co. Cork

Beara Community School, Castletownbere; Coláiste na Toirbhirte, Bandon; Loreto Secondary School, Fermoy; Millstreet Community College; Schull Community College, Schull

Co. Galway

Ard Scoil Mhuire, Ballinasloe; Mercy College, Woodford; St. Brigid's Convent, Tuam

Co. Kerry

Mean Scoil na Toirbhirte, An Daingean; St. Brigid's Secondary, Killarney

Co. Limerick

Laurel Hill Coláiste, Limerick; St. Joseph's Secondary School, Abbeyfeale

Co. Longford

Scoil Mhuire, Longford

Co. Offaly

Tullamore College

Co. Roscommon

Castlerea Community School

Co. Sligo

Ursuline College, Sligo

Co. Tipperary

St. Mary's Secondary School, Nenagh

Co. Waterford

Meanscoil San Nioclás, An Rinn; Presentation Secondary School, Waterford

Co. Westmeath

Our Lady's Bower, Athlone

Important archive of 1916 Rising-related material acquired by the National Library of Ireland at Adam's/Mealy's auction in Dublin on Wednesday 12 April

13 April 2006: The archive of Tom Clarke, first signatory of the Proclamation and a key figure in the Irish revolutionary organisation, includes some 300 letters comprising correspondence between Clarke and his wife, from around 1899 to 1915; it also includes other correspondence including letters written by Clarke when in prison. When catalogued, it will be an invaluable source for scholars, researchers and others interested in Irish social and political history in the early years of the 20th century in particular.

The Clarke archive will also complement the Library's extensive holdings of materials relating to the 1916 Rising. Many of these materials may be viewed now on the Library's online exhibition 'The 1916 Rising: personalities and perspectives', which was launched yesterday by Mr John O'Donoghue, TD, Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism. The exhibition is accessible via the Library's website www.nli.ie/1916; it comprises 400 images and almost 38,000 words of text.

The Clarke archive for the first time puts a human face on this hitherto shadowy but enormously historical significant figure. What emerges is very different from the perceived image of a dour, fanatical, reclusive Republican conspirator. Clarke, these letters show, had a close and loving relationship with his wife and son. He was also an astute and progressive businessman, who kept careful accounts of his newsagency and tobacconist's business, worked long hours and installed in his premises (as contemporary photographs show) an impressive shop-front. All this by a man who had spent sixteen years in Portland Prison as a convicted treason-felon, subject to a regime so harsh that it drove many of his fellow-prisoners insane.

Other items acquired at yesterday's auction include letters written by Clarke as a prisoner in Pentonville and material relating to his residency in New York and involvement in Irish-American politics. The moribund state of the Irish national movement here is reflected in one of his letters dated 1900 ('Things here are not satisfactory - by no means, I am sick of a good deal of what I see ...'). There is a collection of material relating to Clarke's father, James Clarke, a sergeant in the British army, a cache of documents relating to the organisation of O'Donovan Rossa's funeral and one concerning the IRB-sponsored Wolfe Tone Memorial Fund.

There are also accounts in Clarke's hand detailing payments for purchases of arms during 1914 and an annotated typescript draft of part of his *Glimpses of a prison felon's life*, published posthumously in 1922. Finally, the collection includes a magnificent illuminated address to Clarke, with a list of subscribers, including the Fenian leader, James Stephens and Maude Gonne MacBride.

One item of particular interest in the collection is a letter from the Irish-American leader, John Devoy, to Clarke's widow, Kathleen, in 1921, claiming that de Valera 'is not a sincere Republican and wants to keep Ireland in the British Empire'. Devoy adds that de Valera 'is really a half-breed Jew and his mother was a 'Palatine' - that is, of German descent'. There is also a letter from de Valera to Kathleen Clarke, who was at the time Lord Mayor of Dublin,

dated 1940, accepting her resignation from Fianna Fáil and explaining his handling of the hunger strike in April of that year by Republican prisoners.

Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism launches unique 1916 Rising online exhibition

12 April 2006: The National Library of Ireland is marking the 90th anniversary of the 1916 Rising by means of an online exhibition of selected material from the Library's extensive collections of material relating to the period. The online exhibition, which will be accessible via the Library's website www.nli.ie/1916, comprises 400 images and almost 38,000 words of text.

Earlier today (Wednesday 12 April), Mr John O'Donoghue, TD, Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism visited the Library to view the final design for the online exhibition, which is due to go live on Easter Monday, 17 April.

Among the hundreds of items which will be accessible on the website are: the constitution of the Irish Republican Brotherhood as it was in 1916; a memorandum by Eoin MacNeill on the circumstances in which the Irish volunteers would be justified in taking part in an insurrection; an autograph draft of Patrick Pearse's poem 'The Mother'; a request by Pearse to the administrator of the Pro-Cathedral for a priest to hear confessions of members of the GPO garrison on Monday 24 April; the autograph manuscript of Francis Ledwidge's poem in memory of Thomas MacDonagh.

Commenting on the upcoming 1916 Rising exhibition, the Director of the National Library Director Aongus Ó hAonghusa said:

"Since the 1970s, the Library has published a series of educational facsimile packs and books for classroom use. In developing this online exhibition we are particularly conscious of the value to schools of having selected material available for use in teaching primary and second-level history.

"Dr Noel Kissane, formerly Education Officer and Keeper of Manuscripts in the Library, has wide experience of selecting and developing Library material for use in classrooms. He has selected some 400 images relating to the Rising from our collections and he has also written the accompanying narrative, including biographical notes and introductory text", Mr Ó hAonghusa concluded.

Photographic exhibition on aspects of Samuel Beckett's life and work opens today at National Photographic Archive, Temple Bar

5 April 2006: One of the highlights of the centenary celebrations to mark the 100th anniversary of Samuel Beckett's birth is an exhibition at the National Photographic Archive Temple Bar entitled *Centenary Shadows - photographs of Samuel Beckett by John Minihan*; it was opened today by the His Excellency Frédéric Grasset, Ambassador of France to Ireland

The exhibition features 40 photographs, including many portraits of Beckett, taken by the Irish photographer John Minihan, who first met Beckett in 1980. Their friendship led to the creation of some of the most remarkable and iconic photographic images of the writer.

Minihan's portraits of Beckett are world famous; their significance is further heightened by their relative rarity - the writer was a reluctant subject and rarely posed for photographers.

The images on show include the famous portrait of Beckett in Café Francais on the Boulevard Saint Jacques, Paris in December 1985, and a shot of Beckett, satchel across his back, walking away from the camera towards Hammersmith Tube Station, London, in 1984. Also featuring in the exhibition are images recorded by Minihan during various productions of Beckett's plays, including photographs of Beckett directing *Waiting for Godot* at the Riverside Studios in London in 1984; Max Wall performing in *Krapp's Last Tape* at Riverside Studios, London 1987, and Billie Whitelaw *in Rockabye*, London 1987.

John Minihan was born in Athy, County Kildare. His first job at the age of 15 was as a 'runner' in the London *Daily Mail* taking copy from specialist writers such as James Cameron and Bernard Levin, and making tea for sub-editors. At the age of 16, using his first camera, a Yashica-Mat, he began taking amateur shots. One of his earliest photographs of St Paul's Cathedral won him a London Evening Standard prize of five guineas. That 1962 prize win signalled the first of many accolades. His career, which has spanned 40 years, has been marked by a series of invitations to photograph some of the world's most famous and most reclusive figures.

The National Photographic Archive exhibition coincides with the publication of John Minihan's book entitled *Centenary Shadows, a photographic essay of Samuel Beckett* (published by Robert Hale, London).

Previously unknown James Joyce manuscripts go on display for closing days of *James Joyce and* Ulysses *at the National Library of Ireland* exhibition

1 March 2006: A six-sheet collection of previously unknown James Joyce manuscripts, described by experts as "crucial elements in Joyce's first efforts at writing a new work after *Ulysses*", has been acquired by the National Library of Ireland. One of the most significant features of the newly discovered materials is that they appear to provide evidence of collaborative effort between the writer and his wife Nora on certain aspects of his work.

The acquisition was funded by the AIB Group under the provisions of the Tax Credit Scheme (Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997, Sec. 1003).* The manuscripts date from 1923, the year after *Ulysses* was published. They were acquired from a private collector through the auction house Sotheby's, at a cost of €1.17 million. This is the Library's third major acquisition of Joyce manuscripts since 2000. Because of James Joyce's status in world literature - he is second only to Shakespeare in terms of the number of published studies of his work - any new discovery related to his work is an important worldwide literary event.

These exciting new manuscripts go on display today at the *James Joyce and Ulysses at the National Library of Ireland* exhibition. They will remain on display until Friday 10 March 2006, when the exhibition closes.

All but two pages are heavily revised first drafts in pencil; they are unlike most other Joyce manuscripts in the National Library's collections in that four of the pages are transcripts of dictation written in Nora Joyce's hand and contain several misspellings which Joyce retained. All pages contain subsequent corrections and alterations by Joyce; this demonstrates a kind of collaborative effort between Joyce and Nora that has not been documented before - either in scope or in kind. This latest collection marks the National Library's third major acquisition of Joyce manuscripts in a period of six years.

On 14 December 2000, the Library acquired the 27-page 'Circe' manuscript, regarded as the apex of Joyce's masterpiece *Ulysses*; it was purchased for IR£1.4 million at Christies in New York in an auction which attracted huge international interest.

On 30 May 2002, it acquired a very large collection of previously unknown Joyce manuscripts at a cost of STG£8 million. The collection included early notebooks, notes and drafts for *Ulysses* as well as proofs and additions to proofs for *Finnegans Wake* - in all more than 500 manuscript pages and some 200 pages of proofs, together with some typescripts.

Note to editors:
* The Tax Credit Scheme provided for in section 1003 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997, enables persons, companies etc who donate important national heritage items to the national collections to credit the value of those items against their liabilities for certain taxes.

A description of the new James Joyce manuscripts acquired by the National Library of Ireland

The collection comprises six large sheets (approximately 40 cm x 30 cm), all of which were written between April and August 1923; it includes drafts of sketches which Joyce called 'Tristan and Isolde', 'Mamalujo' and 'St Kevin'. The manuscripts document the initial stages of Joyce's work which would be published as *Finnegans Wake* 16 years later, in 1939 - just two years before he died.

The new collection contains texts of which there had been no previous material evidence; these are in large measure unknown texts written during a crucial stage in Joyce's artistic development. The fact that Joyce decided to follow only some of these narrative threads, while abandoning the majority of the specific textual elements in these drafts, is important to Joyce scholarship and 20th century literary history.

Among the most notable features of these new manuscripts:

- ③ All of these early sketches are centred on (often mythic) aspects of Irish history, usually distorted in typical, late-Joycean style.
- ③ Unlike Joyce's later drafts of 'Tristan and Isolde' and 'Mamalujo' (i.e. 'Mathew, Mark, Luke and John', the Four Masters or the Four Old Men), the sketches contained in these drafts are presented as a unified narrative. In later drafts, Joyce separated the stories and then decided not to use them in his new work. He recombined them in a flurry of writing as late as 1938, only then incorporating them as an integrated narrative into *Finnegans Wake* (Book II, chapter 4, pages 383 to 399).
- ③ Joyce included an early version of one of his poems, 'Tutto é Sciolto', as a song sung by

the Four Old Men to celebrate Tristan and Isolde's first kiss. As he had with another poem, 'Nightpiece', Joyce decided not to include it in this work but later included them in his second volume of poetry, *Pomes Penyeach* (Shakespeare and Company, 1927).

One of the stories recounted here is of a young Isolde learning her lessons and, among other things, reciting a humorous parody of the Lord's Prayer. Although similar in theme to an entire chapter of *Finnegans Wake* (II.2), when Joyce returned to the subject in the summer of 1926, he did not directly use any of this material to write that chapter.

YEATS ALOUD, a new poetry speaking competition for post-primary school students celebrates the life of WB Yeats

15 February 2006: As Seamus Heaney noted when addressing a student gathering last year, 'the ability of a poem to inhere in the memory over the years is one of the surest guarantees that it is going to inhere in the language.'

Seamus Heaney's comments have a particular resonance in the context of a new competition which is designed to celebrate the life and work of WB Yeats.

The YEATS ALOUD Poetry Speaking Competition for second-level school pupils, launched earlier today, is being organised by the National Library of Ireland in association with Poetry Ireland.

This is a spoken poetry event and is being run to coincide with the opening of a major exhibition *Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats*, which opens at the National Library of Ireland in May.

The competition judges are Marie Heaney, writer, editor and broadcaster; Niall MacMonagle, teacher, critic and National Library of Ireland Board member; Joe Woods, poet and Director of Poetry Ireland.

The competition is open to any pupil attending a second-level school in Ireland. The poems spoken by competition participants must be by WB Yeats. (The prescribed poem is *The Song of Wandering Aengus*.)

Entry forms and competition details will be sent to all second-level schools in Ireland. Meanwhile entry forms may be downloaded from the National Library's website www.nli.ie or from the Poetry Ireland website www.poetryireland.ie/education.

There will be three winning categories - Junior (first and second year); Intermediate (third and fourth year); Senior (fifth and sixth year). There will also be an Overall Winner chosen from among the winners of the three categories.

The Junior Category prize will be €300, with a shelf of poetry books for the winner's school library; the Intermediate Category prize will be €300 with a shelf of poetry books for the

winner's school library; the Senior Category prize will be €300 with a shelf of poetry books for the winner's school library.

The Overall Winner will receive a further €200, a specially designed trophy and a signed book of poetry by Seamus Heaney.

Lecture on the Dublin Docklands expected to attract significant interest from members of the public

9 February 2006: Projections of how the Dublin Docklands neighbourhood will look and feel; how the development of the area will impact on the wider city of Dublin; what effects the dramatic reshaping of the physical landscape has had on the local population; how residents are coping with those changes - these are among a number of issues to be addressed in a lecture given by James Patrick Hogan of NUI Maynooth on Tuesday 14 February.

'The Docklands and Development' is the latest in series of free public lectures linked to the *Certificate in Dublin Studies* offered by NUI Maynooth and Boston College's Centre for Irish Studies. The lecture takes place next week at the National Library's Seminar Room in Kildare Street, Dublin.

The series, which has been running since October last, offers 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:

Forthcoming events in the series are 7 March 2006 *Joyce and Dublin*, Dr Emer Nolan; 14 March 2006 *Tourism and the City*, Dr Irene Furlong; 21 March 2006 *Photographing Dublin*, Dr Kevin Honan; 28 March 2006 *TV, Cinema and the City*, Dr Chris Morash.

All lectures begin at 6.30pm and take place on each of the above Tuesday evenings. Admission is on a first-come basis.

Coinciding with next Tuesday's lecture is the launch of a travelling exhibition on loan from the Irish American Heritage Museum, Albany, New York.

Entitled *Dublin 1963*, it features photographs of Dublin's inner city and the Docklands area taken by the award-winning American photo-journalist Marvin Koner. The images recall Dublin at a time when the inner city and the Docklands area suffered from high unemployment, poverty and general deprivation.

Displayed alongside Koner's images is an epilogue of 11 photographs of the same general area taken by Dublin photographer Declan Corrigan in 2003.
Corrigan's photographs, which were commissioned by the Irish American Heritage Museum, attest to the massive transformation that has taken place in the area in the intervening 40 years.

Project Arts Centre marks its 40th anniversary by donating its archives to the National Library of Ireland

18 January 2006: This year marks the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the Project Arts Centre, Temple Bar in Dublin - an institution that has earned a reputation for innovative and challenging work, providing a platform for generations of artists across a range of disciplines including theatre, music and the visual arts.

Internationally established musicians, actors and film makers whose early careers were closely associated with the Project include U2, Gabriel Byrne, Neil Jordan, Jim Sheridan, Peter Sheridan, Gerard Stembridge.

Acclaimed visual artists who have exhibited there include John Behan, Dorothy Cross, Graham Knuttel and Michael Kane.

Since it was founded in 1966, the Project has been a distinctive presence in Ireland's artistic and cultural life. However, because much of the work presented and performed there is contrary to, or apart from, mainstream arts practice, the Project has not consistently featured in official records of the arts scene in Ireland.

In a bid to address this deficit, and also to mark its 40th anniversary celebrations, it plans to donate its archives to the National Library of Ireland in the coming weeks.

The archive contains several thousand items including scripts, programmes, posters, photographs, exhibition catalogues and ephemeral material relating to Irish actors, musicians, visual artists and writers who have either had performances or held exhibitions at the Project during the past 40 years. Also included are letters and documentation relating to the day to day running of the organisation - accounts, management and so on.

The National Library already holds large collections of materials relating to the Abbey Theatre and the Focus Theatre as well as extensive collections of papers of playwrights including Sean O'Casey, WB Yeats, Brian Friel and Marina Carr.

When catalogued, the Project Arts Centre materials will be an invaluable source for scholars, researchers, contemporary artists and others interested in the history of Irish theatre, music and the visual arts in the latter decades of the 20th century in particular.