



NEWS

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National Library of Ireland
Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann
NUACHT

The sun shone out brilliantly...the Highlanders presented arms, the band struck up 'God Save the Queen', and then, when the Viceregal Equipage, attended by a dashing crowd of Hussars, had rolled through the cheering crowds that surrounded the entrance gates of the new Museum and Library...these magnificent buildings had been formally and in fact thrown open to the use of the public.

The Irish Times, Saturday 30 August, 1890

It was 120 years ago this year that the National Library of Ireland first began welcoming visitors to our landmark Kildare Street building. Although founded in 1877, for our first 13 years we remained based in nearby Leinster House, then owned by the Royal Dublin Society. The contract to design new buildings for the Library, and for the National Museum, was awarded to the Dublin firm of Thomas Deane and Son, and on 29 August 1890 our doors were officially opened.

From 11am the next morning, when all visitors were admitted, until the present day, the architecture and design of our building has been a constant source of admiration. It features a magnificent domed Reading Room reminiscent of the British Museum in London, and fine examples of craftsmanship throughout, including carved doors by Mulligan of Dublin, fireplaces by Carlo Cambi of Sienna, stained glass by Jones & Wallis of Birmingham and a tiled mosaic floor in the entrance hall, including the word 'Sapientia' or wisdom.

Building on this first, beautiful public space, we now also offer visitors a major exhibition area (currently home to our award-winning Yeats exhibition) and a lecture theatre in our main building, a Manuscripts Reading Room and exhibition space at 2/3 Kildare Street, and the National Photographic Archive in Temple Bar, which houses our photographic collections. Outside the walls, we welcome virtual visitors round the clock, via our website www.nli.ie.

To find out more about our 120 exciting years, join us in celebrating our history and architecture with a guided tour of the main building and Reading Room on the first Saturday of every month at 2.30pm. Admission is free, and no booking is necessary.

National Library Events

Power and Privilege exhibition opens at the NPA

On 26 August, Ms Mary Hanafin, TD, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport opened the exhibition entitled **Power and Privilege: photographs of the Big House in Ireland 1858-1922** at the National Photographic Archive (NPA) in Temple Bar, Dublin. The pages overleaf feature a detailed article on this exhibition.



Ms Hanafin is photographed with Frances Clarke, Assistant Keeper, National Photographic Archive (left) and Fiona Ross, Director, National Library of Ireland.

Rev Ian Paisley and Baroness Eileen Paisley pay private visit to the Library



Former First Minister and DUP leader, Rev Ian Paisley, and his wife, Baroness Eileen Paisley, paid a private visit to the Library on 3 June. They are photographed here looking at photographs of Ballymena, Co Antrim, while Ms Mary Hanafin, TD, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport; Katherine McSharry, Keeper, National Library of Ireland, and Chris Flynn, Principal Officer, Department of Tourism, Culture and Sport look on.

Extremely rare 17th century ship's pass presented to the Library

A ship's pass dated 1687, signed by King James II and Samuel Pepys, which was acquired by the Dublin Port & Docks Board in 1924, was presented to the Library recently by Enda Connellan, CEO, Dublin Port Company. The pass is one of the few known examples of 17th century ships' passes in the world, with others held at the National Archives in Kew, London, and at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich.



Enda Connellan is photographed with art consultant Osgar O'Neill (centre) and Dr Emma Saunders, Manuscripts Department, National Library of Ireland.

Culture Night 2010



As part of the Culture Night 2010 celebrations on 24 September, the Library remained open until 11pm and organised guided tours of the exhibition **Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats** as well as guided tours of the Reading Room. Visitors also availed of the opportunity to visit the Library's new exhibition **Discover your National Library: Explore, Reflect, Connect**. One of the most popular events for children on the evening was **Open Studio**, a virtual visit to the studios of children's writers Niamh Sharkey, Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick and Annie West, hosted by the Library in conjunction with Children's Books Ireland.



Jedward launch *Write up my Street* at the Library



Following a nationwide competition by Londis and Barnardos, 31 young authors aged between 5 and 18 have had their stories published in *Write up my Street*, a powerful and inspiring collection of short stories based around community life in Ireland today. Londis received over 6,000 entries from young people all over Ireland who wrote short stories based around the theme 'community, the people, the place and the pride'. On 7 September, Ireland's favourite twins, Jedward, launched *Write up my Street* in the Library. Proceeds from the sale of the book will go to Barnardos. Jedward are photographed here with two of the contributors to the book.

New National Library of Ireland Board appointed

On 22 September 2010, Ms Mary Hanafin TD, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport announced the appointment of a new Board of Directors for the National Library of Ireland. The Board, which met for the first time on 7 October and is chaired by David Harvey, also includes the Director of the National Library of Ireland Fiona Ross, and is composed of representatives from the following sectors:

Business and communications

David Harvey, Chief Executive, City Channel Ltd; Chairman of the St Patrick's Day Festival organisation; Chairman of Dublin Contemporary 2011; Chairman, Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art and Design.

Brian Halpin, former Deputy Director General and Secretary of the Central Bank of Ireland

Paul Rellis, Managing Director, Microsoft Ireland

H. Paul Shovlin, company director; business consultant; Council Member, Royal Dublin Society

Education

Professor Diarmaid Ferriter, author, historian and university lecturer; Professor of Modern Irish History at University College Dublin

Dr Marian Fitzgibbon, Head of the School of Humanities, Athlone Institute of Technology

Des Marnane, historian, writer and teacher; Hon Secretary, Tipperary Historical Society

Susan Phillips, lecturer involved in community and rural affairs; Council Member, Royal Dublin Society

Pat Quinn, secondary school teacher of English and History, Dominican College Sion Hill, Dublin

Professor Robert Spoo, member of the faculty at the University of Tulsa College of Law; international expert in copyright, trademark and intellectual property

Libraries

Patrick McMahon, Galway City and County Librarian; former President, Library Association of Ireland

Carol Maddock, Information Systems, National Library of Ireland

Announcing the new board members, Minister Hanafin said:

'I am extremely pleased that these very experienced and talented people have agreed to serve on the Board of the National Library of Ireland. They will form the second Board to be appointed since the Library became an autonomous body in 2005. The new Board members possess a range of exceptional skills and experience that can be used to steer and improve the fortunes of what is one of Ireland's premier and venerable national cultural institutions, in difficult times. The role of our national cultural institutions, like the National Library of Ireland, was never more critical. The skills set of these new members will assist the Library in using new technology, understanding copyright issues and linking into local and national library users.'

The appointments are made for a five-year period, subject to progress on restructuring between the National Library of Ireland, the National Archives and the Irish Manuscripts Commission. In announcing the new Board, Minister Hanafin paid special tribute to the work of the outgoing Board under the Chairmanship of Gerard Danaher SC.

The National Library of Ireland was established by the Dublin Science and Art Museum Act, 1877, which provided that the bulk of the collections in the possession of the Royal Dublin Society should be vested in the then Department of Science and Art for the benefit of the public and of the Society, and for the purposes of the Act. An Agreement of 1881 provided that the Library should operate under the superintendence of a Council of twelve Trustees, eight of whom were appointed by the Society and four by the Government; this Agreement also conferred on the Trustees the duty of appointing the officers of the Library. This historic arrangement ended with the establishment of the National Library of Ireland as a non-commercial semi-State cultural institution on 3 May 2005 under the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997.



Fiona Ross, Director, National Library of Ireland is photographed here (seated centre) with members of the Board of the National Library of Ireland. **Standing (from left)** are Chairman David Harvey, H. Paul Shovlin, Brian Halpin, Des Marnane, Patrick McMahon, Paul Rellis and Diarmaid Ferriter. **Seated (from left)** are Susan Phillips, Carol Maddock, Fiona Ross, Pat Quinn and Marian Fitzgibbon. Not included in the photograph is Professor Robert Spoo, who was in the US on 7 October and was unable to travel to the meeting.

Alice Milligan and the Irish Cultural Revival

Since January this year, visitors to 2-3 Kildare Street have explored some of our most remarkable treasures in the multimedia exhibition *Discover Your National Library*. Between November 2010 and February 2011, they will have the opportunity to rediscover the story of a fascinating woman, in the temporary *Discover* exhibition *Alice Milligan and the Irish Cultural Revival*.

Born outside Omagh in 1866, to a unionist family, Alice Milligan was educated at Methodist College and studied English literature and history at King's College London. She began her teacher training in Belfast, but having moved to Dublin to learn Irish she became fascinated by nationalist politician Charles Stewart Parnell. His sudden death in October 1891 confirmed the shift in her political sympathies, and she became increasingly involved in promoting almost every aspect of Irish culture. One of the exhibition highlights is the diary she kept between 1891 and 1893, which brings this critical period in her development to life, and which was recently acquired by the Library.

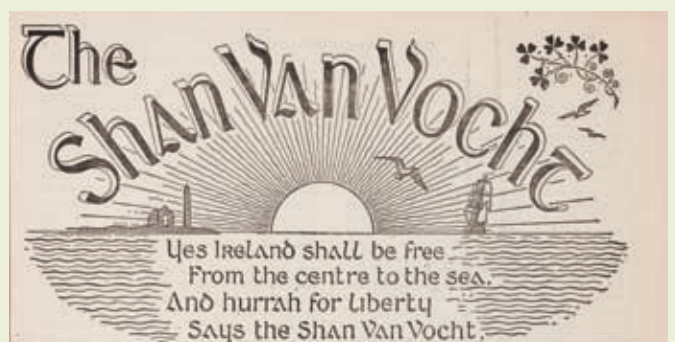
The range and extent of Milligan's interests, as discovered in the Library's archives and presented in the exhibition, is extraordinary. She was heavily involved in print culture, founding a journal, *The Shan Van Vocht*, and publishing prolifically in the press throughout her life; her first volume of poetry, *Hero Lays* (1908), was a collection of the poems she had published over the years in Irish newspapers and journals. She had a key role in the development of national theatre; as early as 1900, her play *The Last Feast of the Fianna* was staged by the Irish Literary Theatre, and in 1901 she worked with Maud Gonne and the Fay brothers to stage two major productions in Dublin.

From the 1890s, she also promoted the Irish language in accessible, democratic ways, often harnessing popular elements of visual culture. One approach she used was to adapt magic lantern shows, in which images were projected onto a wall in front of an audience and described by a speaker, and incorporate them into her national and international work as a Gaelic League teacher. The *Discover* exhibition

reflects this key part of her work through the projection of scenes from her life and work in the exhibition space. Milligan also adapted the very popular form of *tableaux vivants* in which actors on stage hold a still pose for some moments, depicting a scene and accompanied by narration and often music, to dramatise scenes from Irish history and culture, frequently enacted by the communities with whom she was working. With her sisters, Edith Wheeler and Charlotte Milligan Fox, she collected and published Irish folk songs from County Tyrone.

Alongside her cultural interests, Milligan was also a political and community activist. She helped to organise the 1898 centenary commemorations of the 1798 rebellion, and in 1916, after the Easter Rising, travelled to London to attend the trial of Roger Casement. She spent much of that year visiting political prisoners, and after Partition, when she was again living in Northern Ireland, she helped found the Anti-Partition Union. Although much of the 1930s were spent by her in the role of family carer, she remained engaged by contemporary issues, and into the 1940s she was active in international causes such as the campaign for Indian famine relief.

Alice Milligan played an important part in Irish cultural, social and political life, with an obituary in 1953 recording that '*the radius of her friendship was an index of her quality*'. WB Yeats, Standish O'Grady, Arthur Griffith, John O'Leary – these are only a handful of the names which add up to a roll call of modern Irish history'. Despite this, her story is no longer well-known. In *Discover: Alice Milligan and the Irish Cultural Revival*, guest-curated for the Library by Dr Catherine Morris, recently appointed Trinity College Dublin/National Library of Ireland Cultural Coordinator, the collections of the National Library of Ireland bear witness to her fascinating life and work, and bring this remarkable story to life for a whole new audience.





Alice Milligan agus Athbheochan Chultúrtha na hÉireann

Ó mhí Eanáir na bliana seo, rinne cuairteoirí ar 2-3 Sráid Chill Dara cuid dár seoid iontacha i dtaispeántas na

n-ilmheán *Discover Your National Library* a thaisceáladh. Idir mí na Samhna 2010 agus mí Feabhra 2011, beidh an deis acu scéal faoi bhean thar a bheith suimiúil a athfhionnadh, sa taispeántas comhaimseartha *Discover Alice Milligan and the Irish Cultural Revival*.

Rugadh Alice Milligan taobh amuigh den Ómaigh i 1866, do theaghlach aontachtach. Fuair sí a cuid oideachais ag Coláiste Meitidisteach agus rinne sí staidéar ar litríocht an Bhéarla agus stair ag King's College, Londain. Thosaigh sí a hoiliúint mhúinteora i mBéal Feirste, ach nuair a bhog sí go Baile Átha Cliath le Gaeilge a fhoghlaim d'éirigh sí an-tógtha leis an bpolaiteoir náisiúnach Charles Stewart Parnell. Dearbhaigh a bhás tobann i mí Dheireadh Fómhair a haistriú ina combhánna polaitiúla, agus thosaigh sí ag glacadh níos mó páirte i mbeagnach gach gné de chultúr na hÉireann a chur chun cinn. Tá dialann a bhí aici idir 1891 agus 1893 ar cheann de bhuaicphointí an taispeántais, a dhéanann an tréimhse thábhachtach seo ina forbairt suimiúil agus corraitheach, agus tá an dialann sin faighte ag an Leabharlann le déanaí.

Tá raon agus méid shuimeanna Milligan, mar a fuarthas amach i gcartlanna na Leabharlainne agus mar a léirítear sa taispeántas, urghnách. Bhí an-bhaint aici sa chultúr priontála, ag bunú irise, *The Shan Van Vocht*, agus d'fhoilsigh sí go torthúil sa phreas ar feadh a saoil; ba bhailiúchán de dhánta a bhí ina gcéad imleabhar d'fhillíocht *Hero Lays* (1908), a d'fhoilsigh sí thar na blianta i nuachtáin agus irisí Éireannacha. Bhí príomhról aici i bhforbairt amharclainne náisiúnta; chomh luath le 1900, léirigh Amharclann Líteartha na hÉireann a dráma, *The Last Feast of the Fianna* ar an stáitse, agus i 1901 d'oibrigh sé le Maud Gonne agus na deartháireacha Fay le dhá mórleiriú a chur ar an stáitse i mBaile Átha Cliath.

Ó na 1890idí, chuir sí an Ghaeilge chun cinn, ar bhealaí rochtana, daonlathacha chomh maith, ag baint leasa go minic as gnéithe coitianta den amharc-chultúr. Ba é cur chuige amháin a d'úsáid sí ná seónna laindéar draíochta a oiriúnú, ina ndéantaí íomhanna a theilig ar

bhalla os comhair lucht féachana agus a mhíníodh cainteoir, agus dhéanadh sí iad a ionchorprú isteach ina gcuid oibre náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta mar mhúinteoir de chuid Chonradh na Gaeilge. Léiríonn an taispeántas *Discover* an phríomhchuid seo dá gcuid oibre trí theilgean de radhairc óna saol agus óna gcuid oibre sa spás taispeántais. Rinne Milligan an fhoirm an-choitianta de *tableaux vivants*, ina seasann aistreoirí i staidiúir shocair ar an stáitse ar feadh roinnt noiméad a oiriúnú chomh maith, ag léiriú radhairc mar aon le haithris agus ceol go minic, le radhairc ó stair agus chultúr na hÉireann a dhrámú. Ba iad na pobail lenar raibh sí ag obair a achtaíodh é seo go minic. Lena gcuid deirfiúracha Edith Wheeler agus Charlotte Milligan Fox, bhailigh sí agus d'fhoilsigh sí amhráin tíre Gaelacha ó Chontae Thír Eoghain.

Chomh maith lena suimeanna cultúrtha, bhí Milligan ina gníomhaíoch polaitiúil agus pobail chomh maith. Chuidigh sí le céiliúradh céad bliain 1898 réabhlóid 1798 a eagrú, agus i 1916, I ndiaidh Éirí na Cásca, thaiséal sí go Londain le freastal ar thriail Roger Casement. Chaith sí cuid mhaith den bhliain sin ag tabhairt cuairte ar phríosúnaigh pholatiúla, agus i ndiaidh Dhíchur na Teorann, nuair a bhí sí ina cónaí i dTuaisceart Éireann arís, chuidigh sí le hAontas Dhíchur na Teorann a bhunú. Cé gur chaith sí a lán de na 1930idí mar fheighlí teaghligh, bhí baint aici i gcónaí le ceisteanna comhaimseartha, agus isteach go dtí na 1940idí bhí sí gníomhach i gcúiseanna idirnáisiúnta cosúil leis an bhfeachtas le haghaidh faoiseamh gorta na hIndia.

D'imir Alice Milligan páirt thábhachtach i saol cultúrtha, sóisialta agus polaitiúil na hÉireann, le scéala báis i 1953 a thairfead *'the radius of her friendship was an index of her quality. WB Yeats, Standish O'Grady, Arthur Griffith, John O'Leary – these are only a handful of the names which add up to a roll call of modern Irish history'*. WB Yeats, Standish O'Grady, Art Ó Griofa, John O'Leary '. D'ainneoin seo, níl a scéal iomráiteach níos mó. I *Discover: Alice Milligan and the Irish Cultural Revival* i mbun aoichoimeádaíochta ag an Dr Catherine Morris, Comhordaitheoir Cultúrtha Choláiste na Tríonóide/ Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann, tá fianaise i mbailiúcháin Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann ar a saol agus obair iontach ar fad, agus déanann sé scéal iontach seo corraitheach do lucht féachana iomlán úr.

NPA exhibition provides unique insights into life in Ireland's 'Big Houses' between 1858 and 1922



Members of the Dillon family outside the Photograph House, Clonbrock, Ahascragh, Co Galway, October 1870



House party, Heywood, Ballinakill, Co Laois, December 1901



The current exhibition at the National Photographic Archive (NPA), ***Power and Privilege: photographs of the Big House in Ireland 1858-1922***, provides a rare opportunity to view photographs of life in Ireland's 'Big Houses' during the mid 1800s and early 1900s.

The exhibition, which was opened on 26 August by Ms Mary Hanafin TD, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport, features a selection of photographs taken between 1858 and 1922. These are divided into six main themes: gardens and landscape; employees; transport; entertainment and recreation; the arts and sciences; family life. They are drawn from the NPA's collection of 630,000 images, the world's largest collection of Irish photographs dating from 1840s to the present.

Many of the photographs in the exhibition have never previously been on view to the public.

Speaking at the opening, Ms Hanafin said: 'This marvellous

photographic exhibition is a window on the past and gives us an insight into family life in what are now some of the most iconic houses throughout the country. The photographs will be of interest to a wide audience, particularly those with a curiosity about their local history and those who are interested in the early craft of photography. Landscape scenes from many counties in Ireland are included, and the life and times of the families who lived in these big houses is also documented. While the pictures may all be black and white, their story is part of the colourful history of life in Ireland at that time.'

Some of the images are of homes that remain famous landmarks: Ashford Castle in Co Mayo; Carton House in Co Kildare, and Curraghmore, Co Waterford. Others, such as Castleboro, Co Wexford and Moydrum Castle Co Westmeath have long since vanished, while Tollymore Forest Park, Co Down is now owned by the Department of Agriculture, Northern Ireland, and Woodstock gardens Co Kilkenny is run by Kilkenny County Council.

The Misses Anderson, Grace Dieu, Clogheen, September 1907



Uniformed servants, Curraghmore, Portlaw, Co Waterford (undated)



Steward group, Curraghmore, Portlaw, Co Waterford (undated)

The oldest photographs in the exhibition are drawn from the collections of wealthy amateur photographers such as Luke Dillon, 4th Baron Clonbrock and his wife Lady Augusta.

Of the 87 copies from the Library's late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century photographic collections on display in the exhibition, many were generated by commercial firms such as William Lawrence in Dublin, AH Poole in Waterford, and the Dublin-based professional photographers James Simonton and Frederick Holland Mares.

The Clonbrock Collection photographs were taken by members of the Dillon family between 1860 and 1930. As well as chronicling most aspects of daily life on the Clonbrock estate in Ahascragh, Co Galway, this collection includes images of estate staff, family members and neighbours, as well as images from the travels of friends and family in Ireland.

The William Lawrence Collection (1865-1914) primarily features

topographical scenes throughout Ireland, but also features people, activities and interiors.

The Stereo Pairs Collection mainly comprises picturesque scenes from 26 Irish counties. It is so called because photographers used a camera with two lenses side by side, simultaneously taking two virtually identical images; the mounted print was viewed through a stereoscope, creating a three-dimensional effect.

The AH Poole Collection mainly comprises work commissioned by clients from Waterford city and county, New Ross, Tipperary South Riding, and south Kilkenny between 1860 and 1883.

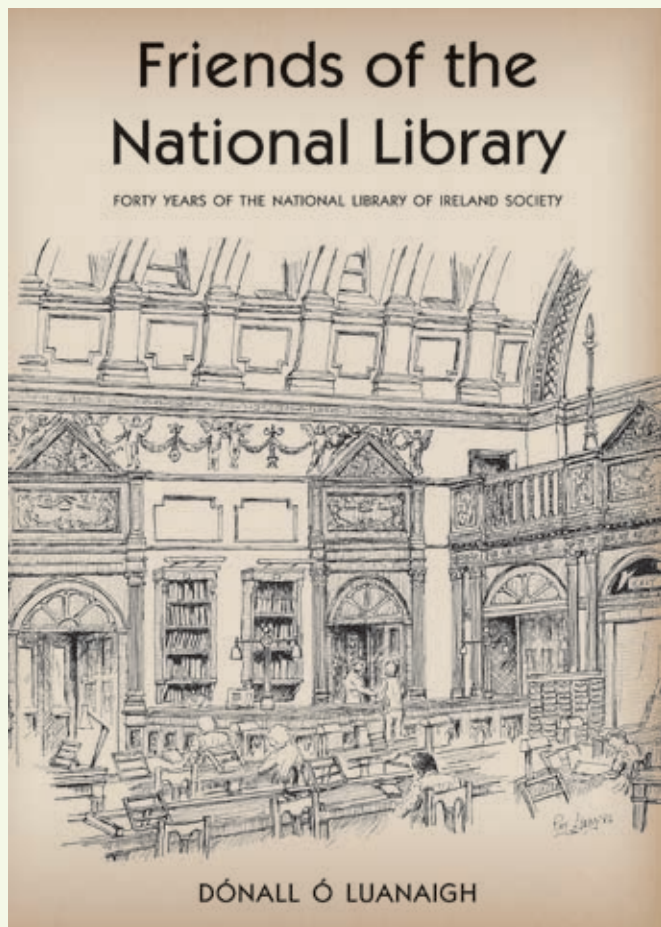
Power and Privilege: photographs of the Big House in Ireland 1858-1922 draws from two types of image originals – glass plates and period photographs in photographic albums. It continues at the National Photographic Archive in Temple Bar, Dublin until March 2011. Admission is free.

Women participating in otter hunt, Curraghmore, Portlao, Co Waterford, May 1901



National Library of Ireland Society to launch its official history

The eagerly awaited official history of the National Library of Ireland Society will be launched at the Society's traditional pre-Christmas reception in the Library's front hall on 8 December 2010. An illustrated 64-page paperback, this book is entitled *Friends of the National Library: Forty Years of the National Library of Ireland Society*.



The author is Dónall Ó Luanaigh, who retired from the staff of the Library in June 2006 after 43 years' service. He held a number of senior positions in the Library, his last being that of Keeper of Collections. He was Honorary Secretary of the National Library Society from 1983 to 1991, and so is uniquely qualified to write about its history.

The book will be published by Associated Editions, whose other recent publications include the re-issued *Mausolea Hibernica* by Maurice Craig and Michael Craig. The attractive front cover features a black-and-white drawing of the Library's main reading room by Pat Liddy, the well-known artist and author, from the Library's Prints and Drawings Collection.

The Society was the brainchild of Dr Patrick Henchy, Director of the National Library of Ireland from 1965 to 1976. He and those who joined him at the inaugural meeting in 1969 were clear about the mission of the Society. It was to harness 'the tremendous amount of goodwill

towards the National Library'. The Library was then falling far short of its international equivalents in terms of adequate staffing and storage, purchasing funds and conservation, and there was an urgent need to alert public opinion to this unfortunate situation and to demonstrate the public's support for remedying it. The Society's primary aim was thus, quite simply, to promote the Library and its various activities.

In his meticulously researched monograph, Dónall Ó Luanaigh records how the Society played its part in reviving the Library's fortunes and making it one of the most vibrant and admired of our national cultural institutions. He highlights the constructive proposals for improving the Library's facilities and administrative structures which the Society forwarded to the relevant authorities at various times; most of these proposals were, in fact, eventually implemented. He notes the publications sponsored by the Society and records the financial support the Society has provided for the Library and, on occasion, for the recreational activities of its staff.

The Society has also been active in organising activities for its members such as lectures, literary readings, outings and film screenings. These are all duly reported by Dónall Ó Luanaigh. An appendix to his book contains a full list of the lectures which the Society has arranged. Details of the Richard Irvine Best Lectures and the annual John J O'Meara Memorial Lectures are given in separate appendices. This information will be a particularly important reference resource for scholars. These lectures, and the Society's other events, have contributed greatly to the cultural and literary life of this country and of its capital city.

The author's naming of those who have been associated with the Society reads like a roll-call of the great and the good in Ireland across two generations. The membership has included some of the most significant figures of the past 40 years, most notably Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh (Chief Justice, later President of Ireland), Senator Michael Yeats, Professor Patrick Lynch, Professor John J O'Meara, Dr Maurice Craig, Dr Margaret Mac Curtain, Dr Muriel McCarthy and Fr J Anthony Gaughan.

All friends of the Library, but especially the members of the National Library of Ireland Society, will find this book absolutely fascinating. It will be the ideal Christmas present for many this year. Dónall Ó Luanaigh is to be congratulated on what was, for him, a labour of love.

This article was written by Felix M Larkin, Vice-Chairman of the National Library of Ireland Society. *Friends of the National Library: Forty years of the National Library of Ireland Society* will be available in bookstores nationwide and in the National Library of Ireland bookshop from 8 December, where it will retail at €14.95 (or for the special price of €12 for Society members).



At the Society's inaugural meeting, 16 October 1969: (from left) Desmond Clarke (Librarian of the RDS), Professor Patrick Lynch (UCD), Dr Patrick Henchy (Director of the National Library of Ireland), Senator Michael Yeats and Captain Tadhg McGlinchey.

National Library of Ireland Society

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

The Society’s Autumn/Winter programme got off to a successful start on 13 October, when Dr Dáire Keogh, lecturer in Early Modern European and Irish History at St Patrick’s College Dublin, gave a lecture entitled *Ireland and the Slave Trade*. On Wednesday 10 November, Dr Tom Morrissey, Jesuit Province Historian, will give a lecture entitled *Two Archbishops in Troubled Times: William J Walsh (1885-1921) and Edward J Byrne (1921-1940)*. On 8 December, the Society will hold its annual Christmas event at which it will launch a new book, *Friends of the National Library: Forty Years of the National Library of Ireland Society*, written by former Keeper of Collections, National Library of Ireland, Dónall Ó Luanaigh. On 26 January 2011, the Society will welcome Professor Anthony Grafton, who will give the sixth annual John J O’Meara Memorial Lecture. Professor Grafton is Henry Putnam Professor of History at Princeton.

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.

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: rcourtney@nli.ie. Tel: 603 0284.

Dublin, UNESCO City of Literature

In July, Dublin was awarded the designation ‘UNESCO City of Literature’. The accolade, a permanent title, recognises Dublin’s cultural profile and its international standing as a city of literary excellence. It is only the fourth city to be awarded the title: the other cities are Edinburgh, Melbourne and Iowa City.

The Library was one of a number of partners which successfully lobbied UNESCO for this sought-after accolade. The initiative was spearheaded by Jane Alger of Dublin City Libraries, who oversaw the three-year application development process.

Speaking following the announcement, Fiona Ross, Director, National Library of Ireland said that the designation provided wonderful recognition of the work and creativity of Dublin’s writers, past and present, and would result in increased interest from international researchers, scholars and others with a particular focus on 20th and 21st century Irish writing.

‘In particular, they will be interested in accessing the Library’s wonderful collections of literary papers and correspondence related to Nobel Prize winners WB Yeats and George Bernard Shaw; Dublin-born writer James Joyce; internationally acclaimed contemporary writers Roddy Doyle, Colm Tóibín, Dr Brian Friel, Hugo Hamilton, Paul Durcan and John Montague; the archives of the Dublin-based Focus Theatre founder Deirdre O’Connell, and the archive of the Project Arts Centre, which is also in Dublin’, Ms Ross noted.



Ms Mary Hanafin, TD, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport is photographed here with Irish writers Caitríona Ní Chléirichin, Laoise Ní Chomhraí, Enda Coyle-Greene, Riona Nic Congail, Patricia Scanlan, Claudia Carroll, Thomas Kinsella, Conor Kostick, Marita Conlon-McKenna, Joseph O’Connor, Hugo Hamilton, Sundeep Sen, Pat Boran and Michéal Ó Conghaile.

Calendar of Events

Power and Privilege exhibition lecture series

The Library’s Seminar Room in Kildare Street will be the venue for a number of events related to the NPA’s *Power and Privilege* exhibition programme in the coming months. The programme began on **Friday 22 October** when Dr Éibhear Walshe, senior lecturer in the Department of Modern English University College Cork, gave a talk entitled *Burning down the house: Bowen, Keane and the Ascendancy Novel*. This event will be followed on **Wednesday 3 November** by *Is there a future for Irish country houses? Sammy Leslie in conversation with Terence Dooley*. On **Tuesday 16 November**, Jennifer McCrea, of the Irish Heritage Trust will give a lecture entitled *Fota House: Voices from the Back Stairs*.

The two November events will take place at 7pm. Admission is free, but advance booking is essential. To reserve a place text the word ‘LIBRARY’ to 51500.

Memoir Lecture Series

The Library is currently hosting a series of lectures on memoir writing. The series began on **Tuesday 19 October** at 7pm when Professor Jerusha McCormack gave a lecture entitled *Lost and found: reclaiming a self through memoir*. It will be followed on **Tuesday 23 November** by a lecture given by Denis Flannery entitled *The book and the lake: preface to a collaborative memoir*. The third and final lecture in the series, *This is not a book; this is dynamite: reading and writing literary autobiography*, will be given by Greg Baxter on **Wednesday 1 December**. All three lectures begin at 7pm. All are welcome and booking is not necessary.

Lunchtime Lecture

On **Friday 26 November**, Felix M Larkin, historian, will give a lecture entitled *‘No Uncertain Voice’ – the Shemus cartoons in the Civil War period in Ireland*. This event will take place in the Seminar Room at 1pm.

Tours of the National Library of Ireland

To celebrate 120 years of the National Library of Ireland’s history and collections, we will be hosting guided tours of the building at 2.30pm on Saturday 6 November and Saturday 4 December 2010. All are welcome and booking is not necessary.

If you would like to receive a copy of our monthly e-bulletin on upcoming Library events, email: mailinglist@nli.ie.

The National Library is now on Facebook and Twitter

You can now receive updates about Library news and events by following our tweets on Twitter or by becoming a fan on Facebook. We are @NLIreland (<http://twitter.com/NLIreland>)

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