

# IRISH | LIBRARY | NEWS

MARCH 2008 · #279 | PASSPORT TO INSPIRATION 2 | HIDDEN TREASURE REVEALED 2 | THE TARDIS 3

## Before you throw that away...

What is Ephemera? Ephemera has been defined, by Maurice Rickards, as “the minor transient documents of everyday life”.

It can also be described as material which is not intended to survive its immediate purpose or which exists for only a short time. Among the National Library’s many collections are thousands of items which are classified as ephemera – printed material which is transient in nature such as leaflets, brochures, theatre programmes, fliers, posters, calendars, menus, invitations, cigarette cards and similar material designed to be thrown away. However, when preserved, this material can provide a great resource for understanding the social, cultural, political, economic and religious history of a country and its people.

In 2001, after many years of being widely dispersed among other Library collections, items of ephemera were assembled in one location to form the basis of the National Library’s Ephemera Collection. The collection now consists of an estimated 100,000 printed items, situated in the refurbished NCAD wing of the National Library’s building complex.



Empire Marketing Board Poster by Seán Keating (1929). Part of a series of posters intended to promote trade between the Irish Free State and Great Britain.

Among the most important items in the Ephemera Department are an original 1916 Proclamation (perhaps the most famous and historically significant piece of modern Irish ephemera), a proclamation issued by the French force under General Jean Humbert which landed near Killala in August 1798 and the opening night poster for the Abbey Theatre in 1904.

The collection is particularly rich in visual imagery, such as World War I recruiting posters and Empire Marketing Board posters (designed by Irish artists Margaret Clarke and Seán Keating).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 | →

# Your Passport to Inspiration



LISC INSPIRE, the new library 'passport' scheme, was launched in Belfast Central Library on February 20, by Aideen McGinley, Permanent Secretary at the Department for Employment and Learning, and Irene Knox, Chief Executive Designate with the new Northern Ireland Library Authority.

Due to the scheme, people in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties now have access to a wider range of libraries and many specialist resources. The INSPIRE scheme has been developed by the Library and Information Services Council, Northern Ireland (LISC NI) as part of a UK-wide initiative to open up library collections not normally accessible to members of the general public. Anyone following a course of education, an individual learning programme or simply pursuing a special interest, will be able to apply for a LISC INSPIRE passport at the library they normally use. The passport will allow them access to the resources of over 20 library organisations across 150 sites in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties.

Libraries that have joined the scheme include Queen's University, the University of Ulster, all public libraries and the Linen Hall Library as well as government department libraries, some further education college libraries and libraries with special resources such as genealogy, law and health.

Speaking at the launch, Aideen McGinley welcomed the initiative as a means of bringing higher and further education libraries closer to local communities and commended the spirit of co-operation and partnership that had brought this about. Irene Knox congratulated LISC on extending the reach of the initiative across the border. "People on both sides of the border will benefit from this improved access to the vast wealth of resources held in all kinds of libraries. I know that other libraries are still considering joining the scheme and I would have no hesitation in encouraging them to become a part of it."

Information on all the libraries participating in LISC INSPIRE, together with details on how to apply for a Passport can be found on the website [www.liscni.co.uk/inspire](http://www.liscni.co.uk/inspire). **ILN**

↓ HIDDEN TREASURE REVEALED

↑ BE INSPIRED

## Belfast Library's Hidden Treasure revealed

In January 2007, The British Library launched a competition to help public libraries across the UK unearth their hidden treasures, and share them online. From 82 submissions, five entries were chosen to be converted to Turning the Pages 2.0 'virtual texts' and shared with the world via the British Library website at [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk).



Taking a look at the online version of *Embassy to China* are BELB Chief Librarian Katherine McCloskey, BELB Chief Executive David Cargo and Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure Edwin Poots

Among the chosen winners was Belfast Central Library's exhibit, George Leonard Staunton's *Embassy to China* (1797).

Chief Librarian, Katherine McCloskey, said the Hidden Treasure award was recognition of the wealth of exceptional collections available in Belfast Central Library. The finely detailed mezztint plates in Staunton's *Embassy to China* offer a vivid record of a period when China was opening up to the West. With Lord McCartney coming from County Antrim and Staunton coming from County Galway, they demonstrate Ireland's global connections in the late 18th century.

Belfast submitted three exhibits, all of which were short-listed. Their other two nominations were *Le Grand Atlas*, Joan Blaeu, (1667), and The Marcus Ward Collection.

Belfast's 'not-so-hidden treasure' is now freely available to view in a special exhibition at the Royal Avenue landmark building until April 30. **ILN**

# The Tardis has landed... in Bishopstown

Bishopstown Library is now firmly on the map thanks to artist Stephen Brandes' two-part artwork work, *The Tardis*, which was recently unveiled by the Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr. Mary Shields. A tardis is "a building that is larger inside than it appears to be from outside", surely an apt description of what a library aims to be.

The first part of the artwork is a painting of an island with the same outline as the floor plan of the library, featuring places from the landscape of the imagination, from Joyce's Sandymount Strand to Erewhon, Narnia and Bexar County.

The second part is an artist's book, in an edition of five, which comprises 29 extracts from novels, plays and poems such as *Treasure Island*, *Waiting for Godot* and more, illustrated by Stephen.

The work is inspired by Stephen's own childhood experiences of the library. According to the artist, who recently represented Ireland at the Venice Biennale, "my early memories of the local library where I grew up, were of an unassuming white breeze-block building surrounded by an island of threadbare litter-strewn lawn. Once inside, the outside world evaporated, the noise of traffic

disappeared and for the time I was there, I was lost in books proffering various universes – some familiar but most well outside of my common experience" **ILN**



↓ BEFORE YOU THROW THAT AWAY (CONTD)

↑ THE TARDIS HAS LANDED



## Before you through that away (CONTD)

→ | FROM COVER

Even items as ordinary as memorial cards and paper grocery bags can provide a wealth of visual and design detail.

The Library also acquires representative samples of modern printed ephemera which complement the existing collections. This is particularly strong in the areas of theatre, politics, religion and the arts.

In 2007, the Library organised a collaborative collecting project with County and City library authorities, to collect ephemera from the General Election, resulting in the library's largest collection of such material.

Further information about the ephemera collection in the National Library can be found at the Library's website [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie)

Enquiries about the collection can be made in writing, by email or by phone to: Ephemera Department, National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. T: +353 1 6030225; E: [hfaul@nli.ie](mailto:hfaul@nli.ie) **ILN**

Some examples of the library's collection

## CHILDREN'S BOOKS IRELAND

(CBI) are looking for young judges and shadowing groups from around Ireland to become involved in the CBI Bisto Awards. Teachers or librarians are invited to sign up a school or library group for this very unique guided reading experience.

How shadowing works:

- Groups register and are sent relevant materials by CBI – including examples of past



Past winner John Boyne with the CBI Bisto Award

shadowing activities, general book activities and a detailed plan for the scheme.

- When the shortlist is announced, the groups are sent more materials to guide them. Each short listed book has dedicated activities developed for it. The activities include summaries, commentary and suggested activities focused on each book, including work sheets which can be photocopied.
- Groups are invited to nominate their favourite book.
- Selected groups are invited to the presentation ceremony.

CBI develops the materials for shadowing schools in consultation with teachers who have participated in the scheme. Each set of activities can be adapted for a range of readers and abilities. CBI supports the programme by actively encouraging short listed authors and illustrators to participate in events with the shadowing groups.

The logic of shadowing is obvious, critical analysis of books by the young reader themselves is an important insight into children's literature. Also ownership and participation in the award is an important right for the young readers. Equally for some young readers, the notion that their reading has a 'purpose' or 'goal' will encourage them to read the short-listed titles and in turn may develop their reading habits beyond the shadowing project. Shadowing will encourage children to try new authors, new types of books and look closely at design and illustration as well as providing teachers and librarians with a tool to encourage quality reading. **ILN**

For further information or to register a school or library group please contact Tom Donegan in CBI, tom@childrensbooksireland.ie, 01 8727475, [www.childrensbooksireland.ie](http://www.childrensbooksireland.ie)

## DÚN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

In June 2006, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council agreed in principal to build a new 1,200 m<sup>2</sup> Central Library at Moran Park, Dún Laoghaire at an estimated cost of €35million. This is to provide a state-of-the-art central library for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown county, a branch library for the people of the town, specialist libraries for science, music and local studies and the headquarters of the county library service, and staff working on other cultural matters.

Following an international architectural competition, the winning entry was that of the Cork based firm. Carr Cotter & Naessens.

To be built on a site adjacent to Moran Park and Haigh Terrace, Dún Laoghaire, the winning design was considered by the judges to enhance the park and to 'integrate very successfully with the local environment.'

## ↑ CHILDRENS BOOKS

## ↓ MEATH

## ↓ INTERNET

## ↓ CORK/FINGAL

## MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE



Standing with the delivery are Dympna Herward, Executive Librarian, Sr Marie Louise, Mercy Sisters, Sharon Flanagan, Library Staff Officer.

Meath County Council Library Service recently arranged delivery of over 1,300 children's books to the Sisters of Mercy in Zambia. The delivery contained a mixture of fiction and non-fiction books for children of all ages. The books were items withdrawn from library stock but in good condition. Mercy Sisters currently teaching at the mission selected the items. A book

sale and some local donations funded the cost (€1,000.00) of delivering the cargo. **ILN**

Library staff Dympna Herward and Sharon Flanagan oversaw the project. If any other library service is considering undertaking a similar project and would like any information, contact Dympna or Sharon at t:046-9021134 or [sflanagan@meathcoco.ie](mailto:sflanagan@meathcoco.ie)

## SAFE USE OF THE INTERNET

Ireland has recently become a member country involved in conducting an international European Research project on Cultural, Contextual and Risk Issues in Children's Safe Use of the Internet and New Media. The EU Kids Online (2006 – 2009) will examine research carried out in 18 member states into how children and young people use the internet and new media. This three-year collaboration aims to identify comparable research findings across Europe to evaluate the social, cultural and regulatory influences affecting both risks and children's and parents' responses to them. It will chart available data, indicate gaps

and identify factors that shape the research capability of European research institutions. Finally, it will examine methodological issues relating to cross-cultural analyses and the study of children's online experience, in order to develop a best practice guide to research. Irish researchers, policy-makers and practitioners are invited to support this work. **ILN**

If you know of any relevant research or research-related activities that impact on questions of children and young people's use, risk and safety online, please email [P.Tsatsou@lse.ac.uk](mailto:P.Tsatsou@lse.ac.uk) or further information, contact the website <http://www.eukidsonline.net/>

## CORK CITY LIBRARY

Over 100 people attended January's Gramophone recital in St Mary's Road branch library on Cork's Northside. The recital was dedicated to the life and achievements of Bill Dunlea, a renowned Cork tenor of the 1940s and 50s.

The Dunlea family donated a CD of Bill's rare recordings to the Cork Music Archive, thus ensuring that

'The Voice Of Erin', as Bill was known, will be available to future generations of Cork people. Liam Ronayne, Cork City Librarian and Kitty Buckley, Music Librarian accepted the CD from Claire Murphy, Bill's sister. An exhibition of memorabilia relating to Bill Dunlea was also on display in the branch during the month of January. **ILN**

## FINGAL COUNTY LIBRARIES

The National Forum on Europe held a public meeting on the Treaty of Lisbon (EU Reform Treaty) in Blanchardstown Public Library on Tuesday the 5th February 2008.

The speakers were Labour MEP Proinsias De Rossa for the Treaty and Leader of the Socialist Party, Mr. Joe Higgins against the Treaty. The Forum's Independent Chairman of the meeting was Mr. Maurice Hayes.

Blanchardstown Public Library houses the Europe Direct Information Centre where information on the Treaty of Lisbon and other EU publications are available.



The proposed new library and cultural centre, Moran Park.

'The new library at Moran Park will transform the provision of library service in the county' said County Librarian, Múiris Ó Raghail. He commented that 'This building is of international significance, it is a living library, a library for the future and will provide the best possible service to its users.'

Construction will commence during 2009 and should be completed by 2011.

It is 19 years since County Librarian, Múiris Ó Raghail launched the *Féile Filíochta*. This year poems were received in ten different languages from countries all over the world. The winner will be announced shortly and will receive the *Féile Filíochta* Poem of Europe Perpetual Award, a crystal trophy presented by the Assembly of European Regions some years ago, along with prize money of €6,000. The overall prize-fund for the *Féile* this year is €25,000.

The four judges for this year's competition are; Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, Rita-Ann Higgins, Gabriel Fitzmaurice and Tony Bianchi.

The celebration of winning poems from the 19th annual *Féile Filíochta* will take place in the Assembly Room, County Hall, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown on Friday, 4th April at 7.00pm. **ILN**

#### INTER-COUNTRY BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION

The Portsmouth Public Library Book Club of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA and the Iveagh Gardens Book Club of Crumlin which is associated with the Dolphins Barn Library (Dublin City Public Libraries), held a joint live discussion on the book *Talk Talk* by the American author T. C. Boyle, on November 15 2007. This was an extraordinary event, believed to have been the first occurrence of a live discussion between a book club in the United States and in the Republic of Ireland. For this discussion, each book club met at

its usual location. The connection was made via the computer-based Skype system, which allows real-time conversation between any two user groups at remote locations. The extension of the technology to video conferencing is also an option for future inter-country book club meetings.

The discussion of the book clubs was facilitated on the American side by Sherry Evans, Head of Public Services Portsmouth Public Library and on the Irish side by Rose Mary Cullen, member of the Iveagh Gardens Book Club, who also proposed and implemented the idea of an inter-country book club discussion. Live and lively discussion ensued among a total of sixteen participants on both sides of the Atlantic. It was a successful and exciting event, so much so that both clubs agreed to repeat the experience. At the next meeting the Iveagh Gardens Book Club will recommend a book by an Irish author. (Reported by Nicolas Johnson, Librarian, Humanist Library of Ireland.) **ILN**

#### ↑ DÚN LAOGHAIRE

#### STORIES FROM THE WEB

is a non profit making reader development website managed by Birmingham Library and Archive Services. The website is developed by a dedicated team and has three key areas aimed at 0-7 year olds and their parents/carers, 7-11 year olds and 11-14 year olds. The site provides resources to support all key activity and events in the Library calendar such as, World Book Day, Black History Month and Summer Reading Challenge.

Site users enjoy finding out about books, authors, publishers and library services through the wide range of creative activity which include creative writing, drawing activity, author interviews, writing tips from 'real' authors, poets and illustrators plus a range of book related games and quizzes. All creative writing sent in via the activity forms is fully moderated by a dedicated team to safeguard children and young people. The creative work submitted to the website is displayed as a permanent collection in a unique gallery,

#### ↓ WEB STORIES

tailored for each member Library service as requested. There are a range of value added resources available to member library services to support staff in each member authority, these include; session plans, promotional materials and access to regular updates via the newsletter and email alert system. There is also the opportunity to promote events in your library service on the website to reach all families in your community.

A new subscription model is being offered out to replace the model which has run for five years. The new model offers single authority/board membership and discounts for numbers of authorities buying in as a group.

Everyone benefits from being part of this unique service, if you would like more information about Stories from the Web contact the Stories from the Web Manager, Doreen Williams: email: doreen.williams@birmingham.gov.uk T: +44(0)121-464-2894

#### ↑ BOOK CLUB

#### DERRY AND RAPHOE DIOCESAN LIBRARY

Over 5,000 volumes in the historic Derry and Raphoe Diocesan Library are to be restored and their contents made available to the public. The unique University of Ulster conservation and outreach initiative – funded by a grant of £500,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund – will take three and a half years to complete.

One of the gems of the collection is leather bound volume entitled *Opera cum vita* [Works and life of...] Gregory of Nazianzus. This was published in Basel by Johannes Herwagen in 1550, and shows the personal binding of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, an alleged lover of Queen Elizabeth I. It is not known how the book made its way into the diocesan collection.

The majority of the collection dates from between the 16th to 19th centuries. The project will simultaneously train a team of skilled book conservators and facilitate a range of education and outreach

#### ↓ DERRY/RAPHOE

activities to allow groups and communities across Northern Ireland explore the books' themes and history.

The project will be based at the Shantallow Library in Derry and will be managed by the University of Ulster and the Church of Ireland Diocese of Derry and Raphoe. The volumes date from between 1480 and 1900 but the Library's core was formed in 1729 by the Archbishop William King, then Bishop of Derry, when he bequeathed to the Lord Bishop of Derry and his successors the books which he had purchased from the executors of his predecessor, Ezekiel Hopkins. The library contains many rare political polemics, literature and maps with publications on the classics, ecclesiastical and volumes on civil law, astronomy, mathematics, agriculture, gardening, philosophy, science, medicine and history. **ILN**

## March 2008

3–17

**SnaG 2008** Seachtain na Gaeilge.  
[www.snag.ie](http://www.snag.ie)

30–1

**Beyond Discovery** EUSIDIC/CLSIG, 30 March – 1 April 2008. The 2008 EUSIDIC Conference is a joint event of EUSIDIC and CLSIG Commercial, Legal and Scientific Information Group of CILIP). Details: [www.eusidic.net](http://www.eusidic.net)

## April 2008

11–14

**MLT Bursary Scheme Information**  
**IAML (UK & IRL) Annual Study Weekend.** University of Kent, Canterbury  
The Annual Study Weekend is organised by the International Association of Music Libraries IAML (UK & IRL). As a training and professional development event for music librarians it remains the only one of its type in the UK. Each year, The Music Libraries Trust offers bursaries to talented librarians and students who would benefit from this opportunity, but who would be unable to attend without financial assistance.

For an application form and/or further information, please contact: Robert Foster, Bursary Secretary, The Music Libraries Trust, (Tel: 020 7848 2132; Email: [robert.foster@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:robert.foster@kcl.ac.uk))

12

**The SLARI Spring Conference**  
Whole school approach to library development, will be held on Saturday, 12th April at King's Hospital Secondary School Library. Details can be viewed at <http://www.slari.ie>. Or contact the secretary at [ivory.aileen@alexandracollege.ie](mailto:ivory.aileen@alexandracollege.ie)

15–17

**The 2008 Annual Joint Conference** of the LAI and CILIP will take place at the Radisson SAS Hotel, Athlone. Details and online booking form: <http://www2.libraryassociation.ie/annual-joint-conference-2008/>

16

**COLICO lecture on Key factors making for good North/South cooperation practice in Ireland** by Andy Pollak, Director, Centre for Cross-Border Studies, and Secretary, Universities Ireland. The event will take place on 16th April at 2.15 pm during the LAI/CILIP Conference, Radisson SAS Hotel, Athlone. Further

details are available from the COLICO web site at [www.library-council.ie/colico](http://www.library-council.ie/colico)

21–22

**The book in the internet era: copyright & the future for authors publishers and libraries**

International Copyright Symposium, Amsterdam (Unesco World Book Capital, 2008/2009). Details: [www.amsterdamworldbookcapital.com/index.cfm?page=Copyright%20symposium](http://www.amsterdamworldbookcapital.com/index.cfm?page=Copyright%20symposium)

## Vacancies

**Interleaf Technology** was founded in 1998 and has since grown to be the largest supplier of automation systems and services in the Irish library market. A position has arisen in our support operation for a support resource.

The role involves acting as first line support across our entire portfolio and providing more extensive support on a number of products: specifically PCReservation, Liberty/Oliver and aspects of Horizon. The successful applicant will have to show ability, enthusiasm, initiative

and the capability to work with limited supervision.

- As this role requires constant interaction with our client base, good oral and written communications skills are essential.
- Familiarity with automated library management systems would be a distinct advantage
- Familiarity with the Windows environment is required, for example – ECDL or equivalent.
- A full, clean driving licence is required.

Salary will be commensurate with the importance of the position and the experience of the successful applicant.

Further details can be seen in the Current Vacancies section of [www.library.ie](http://www.library.ie) Please send a current CV with a one-page letter outlining your suitability for the position to Charles S. Quain, Interleaf Technology, 55/57 Southern Cross Business Park, Boghall Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow  
Closing date for applications: Monday 31 March 2008

↑ CALENDER OF EVENTS

↓ PUBLICATIONS

↑ VACANCIES

↓ CONTACT DETAILS

## Publications

**Kildare Libraries & Arts Services**  
Ideas Matter: Library Services Development Plan 2007 – 2011 was launched by Kildare County Council in Aras Chill Dara, Naas on 22 November 2007.

Ideas Matter presents an exciting programme for Kildare Library and Arts Service for the next five years.

There is a strong focus in the plan on partnership and engagement with all who live, work and visit Kildare either physically or virtually.

Speaking at the launch, the Director of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, Norma McDermott said: "Layers of meaning evolve as we read the plan: they amplify the ambitions of Kildare County Council to be relevant in the multifaceted lives of those they serve."

She added: "The library service celebrates diversity while promoting inclusion. The guiding principles of egalitarianism, empathy and humanity shine through the plan."



Kildare Libraries & Arts Services staff with Director of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, Norma McDermott; County Manager, Michael Malone; Councillor Mary Glennon, Mayor of County Kildare and County Librarian, Breda Gleeson, at the launch of "Ideas Matter".

Other speakers at the launch included the Mayor of Kildare, Mary Glennon, County Manager, Michael Malone and the County Librarian, Breda Gleeson.

The "Ideas Matter" document can also be accessed through Braille, on audio CD, and is available in a downloadable version in English or Irish at [www.kildare.ie/library/library-development-plan](http://www.kildare.ie/library/library-development-plan)

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## Next Issue

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