William Carleton, 1794-1869, is in many ways a literary phenomenon. A contemporary and professed, although not uncritical, admirer of Maria Edgeworth (1767-1849), Lady Morgan (1776-1859) and Samuel Lover (1797-1868), he is far removed from their Anglo-Irish tradition. In fact it is difficult to assign Carleton to any tradition. His gleanings from his father's telling of 'old tales, legends and historical anecdotes', in Irish, his attempts to engage with the classics and its eclectic but unsystematic reading which included the classics and such works as Defoe's History of the Devil, Fielding's Tom Jones and, famously, Smollett's translation of Lesage's Gil Blas, came together in a voice which echoed all of these influences. As he progressed as a writer, Carleton was not totally outside the main stream of literature as evidenced from the mutual respect which existed between him and such revered figures as Samuel Ferguson and William Makepeace Thackeray; and, like another contemporary, Gerald Griffin, Carleton was considerably gratified by the prospect of an English readership.

Nevertheless, Carleton remains primarily the interpreter of a 'class unknown in literature', recording them as one of their own; for no-one had written 'from inside the margins' of peasant Ireland before. Somewhat embarrassingly, his initial opportunity to write about the Irish peasants came from the task of exposing their so-called Catholic superstitiousness entrusted to him by an evangelical zealot, Caesar Otway, a maverick priest of the Church of Ireland to which body Carleton had recently attached himself. This purpose, however, became increasingly irrelevant as Carleton, living in Dublin, re-entered imaginatively the Clogher Valley of his youth and young manhood in his two volumes of short stories, Traits and Stories of the Irish Peasantry, 1829 and 1833, in which, drawing on comedy, farce, melodrama and tragedy, he presents a tapestry of the life of the country people of the north of Ireland before the famines of the 1840s altered their pattern of existence forever. He also presents them in a language they might recognise: coming from a bilingual family in which English was the language of daily transactions, Irish the vehicle for his father's stories and his mother's traditional songs, Carleton's English is liberally flecked with local idioms, especially in the dialogue given to his characters. The world of the Irish peasant was also the source on which Carleton draws for the succession of novels which followed these early publications and which include Fardorougha the Miser (1839), Valentine McClutche (1845), The Black Prophet (1847), The Emigrants of Aghadarr (1848), The Tite Proctor (1849), The Squanders of Castle Squander (1852). In these works he addresses many of the issues affecting the Ireland of his day such as the influence of the Established Church and landlordism, poverty, famine and emigration; it does have to be said, however, that the earnestness with which he addresses these topics occasionally caused his more creative genius to be swamped in a heavy didacticism.

Carleton's writings brought him limited commercial benefit and he suffered periods of neglect, despite an abortive attempt in the late nineteenth century by W B. Yeats to reclaim him. In more recent times a second rediscovery owes much to such writers as Patrick Kavanagh, Benedict Kiely, John Montague, Seamus Heaney and to critics like the late Barbara Hayley, Eileen Sullivan and Thomas Flanagan and, in his own Clogher Valley, to the efforts of the Carleton Society founded in the 1960s. The most sustained effort to celebrate Carleton, however, must surely be the annual summer school, inaugurated in 1992. Encouraged by patrons such as Benedict Kiely, Eileen Sullivan, Owen Dudley Edwards and John Montague, the committee from the beginning steered the School away from what could have been a claustrophobically localised whimsy to celebration of a writer who produced from his Clogher roots a body of work that merits serious critical attention. Papers by a range of distinguished scholars have supplied that critical attention as they deconstructed, re-assessed, re-interpreted, and celebrated Carleton's work. Not only has the Summer School provided a forum for debate; it has also attempted to bring Carleton to a wider audience through such publications as the re-issued Autobiography and Benedict Kiely's 1948 study of Carleton, Poor Scholar. At present, members of the committee are preparing a collection of papers presented at the school since 1992.
Lines to a Comet

Hail to the Seraph glowing
In burning car through heaven's high concave borne
His youthful locks of heavenly light unshorn
In terrible beauty flowing
How rapid through the blue and boundless space
He flashes on his bright careering race!
His fiery Seal of red destruction shining.

Be dim each trembling star
God's dread portentous messenger appears
The diadem of glory which he wears
Shines fearful, fierce and far
See from His vengeful hand in ire He hurls
The fate of empires and the fall of worlds
Scattering around plague, pestilence and war.

But did death flag so bright
Before o'er falling empires ever wave?
Gives heaven a sign that man should be a slave?
No it is freedom's light
Streaming on high a signal for the brave
And shines not to destroy mankind but save
Guiding the oppressed to victory and light

William Carleton

This extract from an unpublished poem, still very much in draft form, was found among Carleton's papers. It is undated.

Monday 2 August

11.15 Official Opening
11.30 Keynote Address:
   PATRICIA CRAIG
1.00 Lunch
2.30 Address:
   JOHN KILLEN
4.30 Address: The Lesser Known Wildes
   Gordon Brand
6.30 Dinner
8.00 Art and Craft Exhibition
   (Clothmore Rural Centre)

PATRICIA CRAIG is a critic, biographer, and anthropologist. Her anthologies include The Battle of the North (1992), The Oxford Book of Schooldays (1994), The Oxford Book of Ireland (1998) and The Belfast Anthology (1999). Amongst her critical biographies are Elizabeth Bowen (1986) and, more recently, the highly acclaimed Brian Moore: A Biography (2002). She is a regular reviewer with major national dailies and literary journals and has done much work on retrieving the writings of lesser known writers from the North of Ireland. Patricia Craig has addressed the Carleton Summer School on two previous occasions.


GORDON BRAND is an educationalist and literary historian. He has lectured widely on Irish writers and writing. His major research has been on Patrick Magill and he has contributed articles on Magill's life and writings to a range of literary journals. More recently he has been researching the lives of Oscar Wilde and his family.

The Monday Fringe

JACK PAKENHAM exhibits widely and in 1987 he was elected an Academician by the Royal Ulster Academy. His work explores the conflict between the individual and the divided society that constitutes everyday life in Northern Ireland. Of his work he says, "Over the last twenty years, I have tried to use visual language to diagnose, expose and comment upon the malaise that led Northern Ireland’s people into such a nightmarish scenario. Following the cease-

Forthcoming Publication

In the near future the William Carleton Summer School will publish an illustrated book reflecting the proceedings of the Summer School over the years.

This book will include

- A selection of papers presented at the Summer School
- A short anthology of materials from Carleton’s letters and other unpublished or less well-known material
- A bibliography of Carleton’s works and writings about Carleton
- Photographs, drawings and maps of Carleton sites

Find out more about William Carleton at www.williamcarletonsummerschool.org or Email: williamcarletonsummerschool@hotmail.com

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Tuesday 3 August

11.00 Address: William Carleton and the Pseudo-Patriots of Ireland, David Krause

12.30 Lunch

2.00 Readings from her published fiction, Martina Devlin

3.30 Symposium: The Irish Big House

Hazel Dolling, Terence Dooley, Norman Vance (Chair: Robin Marsh)

6.00 Dinner

8.00 Evening of music and poetry

The Orion Duo, (Ruth Beeb, violin and viola and Christopher Blake, piano)

Readings from their poetry:

Sonya Abercrombie, Maureen Boyle and Maria McManus

DAVID KRAUSE is an American academic and critic. He has published widely on Sean O Casey, including Sean O Casey: The Man and His Work (1960) and A Self-portrait of the Artist as a Man: Sean O Casey's Letters (1968) and wrote The Dolmen Boucicault (1964). Amongst Professor Krause's writings on Carleton are the articles 'Carleton, Catholicism and the Comic Novel' (1994) and 'William Carleton, Demiurge of Irish Carnival' (1994). His full-length critical study, William Carleton, the Novelist: His Carnival and Pastoral World of Tragi-Comedy, appeared in 2000.

MARTINA DEVLIN is a novelist and journalist whose short story, 'Confessions' won the Hennessy Cognac Literary Award in 1996. Her novels include Three Wise Men (2000), Be Careful What You Wish For (2001) and Venus Reborn (2003). This year she saw the publication of her fourth novel, Temptations, whose heroine, she tells us, pursues an 'allegedly post-modern solution to the post-modern problem of the man short-age'. Martina Devlin has also contributed to two charity collections: Travelling Light and Irish Girls Are Back In Town.

Hazel Dolling (née Staples) was born and, for the past forty years, has lived in Lissan House, an early seventeenth century mansion, whose occupancy by the Staples family is the longest by any single family of a country house in Ireland. She has, for many years, maintained the house and demesne almost single-handedly - 'painting the rooms, running the turbine, collecting her grandfather's pictures and building up the family archive' - and received recognition of her custodianship when Lissan House won the Northern Ireland Heat of the B.B.C.’s Restoration series. Hazel Dolling has presented the story of Lissan on radio, television and in talks to various groups throughout Ireland.

TERENCE DOOLEY


NORMAN VANCE is Professor of English at the University of Sussex and Fellow of the English Association. His principal area of research is nineteenth century English and Irish prose writing and he has also written on aspects of Protestant thought and culture in the North of Ireland. His publications include The Sinews of the Spirit (1985), The Victorians and Ancient Rome (1997), Irish Literature: A Social History (1990 and 1999) and Irish Literature Since 1800 (2002). Professor Vance has been guest speaker at the Carleton Summer School on two previous occasions.

The Tuesday Fringe

RUTH BEEB trained as a violinist. Her teachers were Peter Turkton, and Jack Glickman. After free-lancing in London, she joined the Ulster Orchestra in 1979 as sub-principal viola, having been playing the instrument in chamber music groups. She is now principal number two viola. The instruments that Ruth Beeb plays are a Boardman a fine violin maker who lives in Northern Ireland. She also plays electric violin and ravanhatta.

CHRISTOPHER BLAKE studied piano and French horn at college and won the Tagore Gold Medal. As a pianist, he has worked with a number of groups and individuals in Northern Ireland including Belfast Wind Quintet and Orion Quartet. Chris is first horn of the Ulster Orchestra. He also, on occasion, plays celeste and keyboard with the orchestra and, for baroque programmes, the harpsichord.

MAUREEN BOYLE is a journalist, broadcaster and writer. She is a theatre critic for the Sunday Times, a regular contributor to the cultural and political journal, Fortnight, and frequently broadcasts on B.B.C. Northern Ireland. Her early poems commemorating 'The Year of the Child' won a UNESCO medal and she was a prize-winner in the 2002 Dun Laoghaire Poetry Competition. Her recent poems have been published in Fortnight.

MARIA McMANUS is an occupational therapist and writer. Her poems have been broadcast on Radio Ulster and have appeared in the anthologies, Lonely Poets Guide to Belfast (2001), Alchemy (2001) and, this year, in Introductions 1. Her play, Nowhere Harder, was performed during the Belfast Festival at Queen's in 2003.

SONIA ABERCROMBIE is an actress and writer. She has written plays and stories for young people. Her poems have appeared in the anthology, Ringing the Changes, and, recently, in Fortnight magazine, and she has read from her work at such venues as the Old Museum Arts Centre, the Linenhall Library and the Crescent Arts Centre.

The Tuesday Fringe continued...

Wednesday 4 August

10.00 - 8.00 Tour: Carleton and the big houses of South Tyrone

Conductor: Jack Johnston

Lunch, en route, has been arranged

Costume Drama at Parkanaur House

Roma Tomalty and Gordon Fullerton

Dinner, en route, has been arranged

JACK JOHNSTON was a member of the former Carleton Society and the first chairman of the William Carleton Summer School. He edits The Spark, a local history review. He has written, broadcast and lectured widely on local history, and has a particularly detailed knowledge of his native Clogher Valley. He has contributed to the Shell Guide to Ireland, has edited Workhouses of the North West (1996) and contributed 'Society in the Clogher Valley, 1750-1900' to Tyrone: History and Society (2000). Jack Johnston was, until lately, chairman of the Federation for Ulster Local Studies and the Ulster Local History Trust.

The Wednesday Tour

CENTRE STAGE COMPANY

Each year, at Parkanaur House, Centre Stage Company organises and conducts acting and theatre classes for young people. Carleton’s ‘Poor Scholars’ on today’s tour will be conducted around Parkanaur by actors and actresses dressed in period costume.

Tour Map

Find out more about William Carleton at www.williamcarletonsummerschool.org or Email: williamcarletonsummerschool@hotmail.com
Thursday 5 August
11.00  Address: William Carleton and the Catholics of Ulster: Marianne Elliott
12.30  Lunch
4.30  Carleton Forum
In an informal session, aspects of Carleton's life and writings will be discussed, interspersed with readings from Carleton's work, and Summer School patron and Carleton scholar, Dr Eileen Sullivan, will speak about Carleton and Thomas Davis.
6.00  Dinner
8.00  A Céilé Night (Music and Storytelling): Declan Forde and friends
(McSorley's Tavern, Clogher)

MARIANNE ELLIOTT is Director of the Institute of Irish Studies at Liverpool University, Professor of Modern History and a member of the British Academy. She was a major contributor to the ongoing Irish cultural debate of the 1980s and 90s, writing for the influential Field Day Pamphlets in 1985 and serving as a member of the Opsahl Commission on Northern Ireland in 1993. Professor Elliott’s full-length publications include Wolfe Tone: Prophet of Irish Independence (1989), The Catholics of Ulster (2000) and, last year, Robert Emmet: The Making of a Legend.

EILEEN SULLIVAN began her study of Carleton in the late 1960s when she selected him as the subject for her doctoral dissertation at the University of Florida. Since that, she has fostered the study of Carleton in the United States through her editorship of the Carleton Newsletter in the 1970s and the Irish Educational Association at St Augustine, Florida, of which she is Executive Director. She has contributed articles on Carleton to a wide range of literary journals and has lectured on him at major literary conferences in Ireland and America. Eileen Sullivan was appointed one of the first patrons of the William Carleton Summer School in 1992 and has since been a regular visitor and contributor to the School. Her forthcoming biography of Carleton will be published in the United States in the near future.

The Thursday Fringe
DECLAN FORDE is a musician of the Irish School, well known throughout the county as a raconteur and traditional storyteller. He has taught Art and Design in Christian Brother’s Grammar School, Omagh, for many years and is current head of department.

Along with other musicians Declan Forde will host ‘A Traditional Céilé Night’, McSorley’s Tavern, Clogher

Everyone is invited and entrance is free

WILLIAM CARLETON AND HIS NEIGHBOURS
by Sam Hanna Bell
There is a tradition that the people of Carleton's Country, the mountainous district between south Tyrone and Monaghan, were descendants of the Fibrolgs or Bag-Carriers, driven there by their Celtic conquerors. In this district, in the townland of Prillisk, between Clogher and Knockmany, William Carleton was born in 1794. It can happen, when discussing a writer and his work, that little is added to our evaluation to mention when and where he was born. We see him only faintly, if at all, a journeyman labouring behind his heroes, his heroines, his villains. But William Carleton of Prillisk in the County Tyrone steps out from the pages of his own tales. He is Jimmy McEvoy the Poor Scholar travelling hopefully towards Maynooth, he is Denis O'Shaigheastic hurrying homework from Maynooth, to wed "the cream of his affections", Susy Connor, he is Shane Fadh, who before the eyes of his sweetheart, could out-dance, out-throw, out-speed all his rivals in the glades of Althadhanwood Wood. From this vanished forest Carleton leads .out his neighbours, remembering and setting down every quirk and turn of their steps. He is the inexhaustibly well-informed legend-and-villains-officer of the baggage of sorrow and joy the Bag-carriers humped through their lives. He was born among their cabins and travelled with them to their christenings and funerals, and their weddings and wakes, their places of merriment and of pilgrimage. And, above all, his father was a brimming well of folk-tale and legend and Carleton drew prodigally on him. In later years he could boast that neither Petrie nor Ferguson nor O'Donovan nor any other antiquary had anything to teach the writer who had spent his childhood among the neighbours who tumble from the pages of his books. Throughout his stories there are many examples of Carleton's indebtedness to the tradition that he learnt around hearthstones in the Clogher Valley.

A few years ago there appeared in Béaloideas, the Journal of the Folklore of Ireland Society, a group of Tyron folk-tales contributed by the late J. B. Arthurs of Queen's University. One of these stories, Jack and the Black Horse, was taken down in 1908 from a Tyrone storyteller, Owen Dudley Edwards. From this vanished forest Carleton leads .out his neighbours, remembering and setting down every quirk and turn of their steps. He is the inexhaustibly well-informed legend-and-villains-officer of the baggage of sorrow and joy the Bag-carriers humped through their lives. He was born among their cabins and travelled with them to their christenings and funerals, and their weddings and wakes, their places of merriment and of pilgrimage. And, above all, his father was a brimming well of folk-tale and legend and Carleton drew prodigally on him. In later years he could boast that neither Petrie nor Ferguson nor O'Donovan nor any other antiquary had anything to teach the writer who had spent his childhood among the neighbours who tumble from the pages of his books. Throughout his stories there are many examples of Carleton's indebtedness to the tradition that he learnt around hearthstones in the Clogher Valley.

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Friday 6 August
10.30  Address: Brian Walker
12.15  Concluding address and overview: Owen Dudley Edwards
1.30  Lunch
2.30  Summer School ends

BRIAN WALKER is a Professor in the Department of Politics at Queen's University, Belfast, and formerly Director of the Institute of Irish Studies. He has also served as Chairman of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Dr. Walker's publications include Faces of the Past (1974), Sentry Hill: An Ulster Farm and Family (1981), Ulster Politics: The Formative Years, 1868-1886 (1987); Dancing to History's Tune: History, Myth and Politics in Ireland (1996); Past and Present: History, Identity and Politics in Ireland (2000).

OWEN DUDLEY EDWARDS, Honorary Director of the William Carleton Summer School, is a historian, broadcaster and writer. He is Reader in History at the University of Edinburgh and has held visiting professorships at American Universities. His published works includes America and Ireland, 1776 - 1976 (1980), Eamonn de Valera, Burke and Hare (1994) - a work on the infamous Edinburgh 'body-snatchers' who were also the subject of his play performed at the Edinburgh Festival - and, most recently, British Children's Literature and the Second World War (2003). Other publications include studies of Oscar Wilde, Conan Doyle, James Connolly, and P.G. Wodehouse. Owen Dudley Edwards has also edited The Easter Rising (1968), Conan O'Brien Introduces Ireland (1969) and, Scotland, Europe and the American Revolution (1976).

Summary Programme, 2-6 August 2004

Monday 2 August
11.30-1.00  Keynote Address: Patricia Craig
1.00-2.30  Lunch
2.30-4.00  Address: John Kileen
4.30-5.30  Address: Gordon Brand
6.00-7.00  Dinner
8.00-10.00  Art and Craft Exhibition
(Clogher Rural Centre)

Tuesday 3 August
11.00-12.30  Address: David Krause
12.30-2.00  Lunch
2.00-3.15  Address: Martina Devlin
3.30-5.30  Symposium: The Big House: Hazel Dolling Terence Dooley Norman Vance
6.00-7.00  Dinner
8.00-10.00  Music and poetry evening
The Orion Duo
(Ruth Beeb, Chris Blake)
Sonia Abercromby.
Maureen Boyle
Maria McManus

Wednesday 4 August
Tour
Thursday 5 August
11.00-12.30  Address: Marianne Elliott
1.00-2.30  Lunch
2.30-5.00,  Carleton Forum: Address: Eileen Sullivan, Carleton and Thomas Davis Readings from Carleton Questions and discussions
6.00-7.30  Dinner
8.00-11.00  A Céilé Night:
Music and Storytelling
Declan Forde & friends
(McSorley's Tavern Clogher)

Tour
Friday 6 August
10.30-12.00  Address: Brian Walker
12.15-1.30  Address: Owen Dudley Edwards
1.30-2.30  Lunch
End of Summer School
Acknowledgements

The William Carleton Summer School Committee wishes to acknowledge the contributions made by the following:

Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council
Arts Council for Northern Ireland
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Ecclesville Printing Services

And everyone else who contributed to making this year’s Summer School a success

All information given in the programme was correct at the time of printing.
Should changes become necessary, the Committee apologises for any inconvenience to delegates.

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