



*Bicentenary  
Celebration*

*William Carleton Summer School*

*August 8th - 12th 1994*

# William Carleton and the Irish LITERARY TRADITION

**A**lthough he lived and worked for most of his adult life in Dublin, William Carleton is best remembered for his evocation of the way of life which he experienced in his early days in the Clogher Valley. He portrayed the people, his own neighbours at Prolusk, Towney and Springtown, in their many moods and engaged in a range of activities, with a liveliness in which humour and pathos, if not tragedy, were often set side by side. His most celebrated work remains his collections of tales published in 1830 and 1833, *Traits and Stories of the Irish Peasantry*.

*William Carleton was a great Irish historian. The history of a nation is not parliaments and battlefields but in what the people say to each other on fair days and high days, and in how they farm, and quarrel and go on pilgrimage. These things has Carleton recorded.*  
W.B. Yeats  
(1889)

To increase awareness of Carleton's writings and their social milieu, the William Carleton Summer School was inaugurated in 1992. Last year the focus of the School was on Famine, a situation which Carleton wrote about starkly and angrily. As this year is the bicentenary of his birth, the primary emphasis will be on Carleton the writer and his place in the continuing Irish Literary tradition.

Centred in Carleton's own country, the Clogher Valley, the School has already won a reputation for mingling scholarly debate with goodcompany and a relaxed atmosphere.

Come and experience these for yourself.

## *Carleton Summer School Patrons*

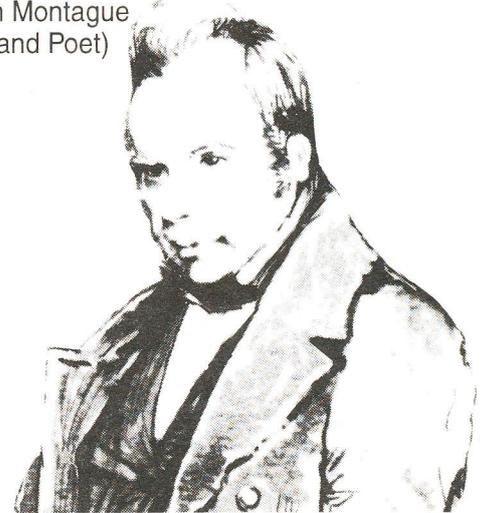
The Most Revd. Joseph Duffy, D.D.  
(Bishop of Clogher)

The Rt. Revd. Brian D.A. Hannon, M.A.  
(Bishop of Clogher)

Dr. Benedict Kiely  
(Dublin)

Dr. Eileen A. Sullivan  
(Tallahassee, Florida)

Mr. John Montague  
(Author and Poet)



# Monday 8th August 1994

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- 12.00 Registration and Lunch
- 2.30 Prof. Augustine Martin -  
Keynote Address  
"William Carleton and  
The Irish Oracular"
- 4.00 Seamus Heaney - "A Hedge  
School Reading"
- 5.00 Break
- 8.00 Dinner and Entertainment

All Carleton's  
best work is true  
to that medieval  
texture of Irish  
Catholic life,  
where the same  
breath that  
utters a Hail  
Mary suffices to  
shoo the  
chickens off the  
floor or the cat  
from the jug of  
cream.  
Patrick  
Kavanagh  
(1945)

## PROFESSOR AUGUSTINE MARTIN

Augustine Martin holds the chair of Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama at University College, Dublin. He has been closely involved with the Yeats and Joyce Summer Schools and amongst his published works are a biography of W.B. Yeats, a detailed study of James Stephens and an illustrated monograph *Anglo-Irish Literature* (1980). He has also edited such works as *The Genius of Irish People* (1984) and, most recently, *James Joyce: the Artist and the Labyrinth*.

## SEAMUS HEANEY

Seamus Heaney is currently Professor of Poetry at Oxford University and has been Professor of Oratory and Rhetoric at Harvard University. He has published six major volumes of verse since *Death of a Naturalist* (1966), the latest being *Seeing Things* (1991). Other publications include two selections of his poems (1980) and (1990) and two collections of essays, *Preoccupations* (1980) and *The Government of the Tongue* (1988). His work has been the subject of significant studies by Neil Corcoran, Elmer Andrews, Henry Hart and Michael Parker.

## Tuesday 9th August 1994

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11.00 Rev. Bert Tosh -  
"W.F. Marshall Poet and  
Preacher"  
Mr. Denis McVeigh -  
W.F. Marshall Poetry  
Readings

12.30 Lunch

2.30 Symposium "The work of  
John Montague"

4.30 Afternoon Tea

6.00 John Montague -  
Reading from his own works

7.00 Heather Brett - Poetry  
Readings from "The Touch  
Maker"  
Gerry Hull - "Settlement in  
The West"  
Noel Monaghan -  
"Windows" Poetry Reading

No Irish  
Novelist, and  
few elsewhere,  
has so crammed  
the landscape of  
his imagination  
with lively,  
laughing, tragic  
inhabitants.  
Other writers  
have left us  
neater, better  
documented  
accounts of great  
events in our  
history, but  
none has given  
us such vivid  
report and  
recreation of the  
life of the Irish  
peasant.  
John Hewitt  
(1974)

### THE REVEREND ROBERT TOSH

Dr. Bert Tosh has been a minister of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland since 1973. When minister of Charlemont and Birt, Derry, he also taught in Foyle College and was the Presbyterian Church's representative on the BBC Northern Ireland Advisory Committee. In 1984, he became a full time producer of religious programmes with the BBC and is, at present, Head of Religious Broadcasting. He edited and introduced a radio feature on the Tyrone poet, W.F. Marshall, some years ago.

### DENIS McVEIGH

Denis McVeigh lives in Altmore and is a well-known collector of stories, verses and country lore. He is an accomplished storyteller and reciter, specialising in the work of W.F. Marshall, the 'Bard of Tyrone'.

### JOHN MONTAGUE

John Montague has had a distinguished career as a writer and an academic. His first major publication, *Forms of Exile* (1958) has been followed by nine volumes of poetry, the latest being *Time in Armagh* (1933). Two selections of his poetry appeared, in 1982 and 1989. He has also published stories, essays, autobiography and criticism. John Montague has taught in Irish, French and American universities and has been living in Co. Cork in recent years. He is patron of the Carleton Summer School and gave the keynote address in 1992.

### HEATHER BRETT

Heather Brett was born in Newfoundland, brought up in Co. Antrim and is now working in Cavan. She is an editor and director of *Windows* publications and designs the *Poetry Broadsheet* which features the work of both emerging and established poets. Her own published work includes the volume of poetry, *Abigail Brown* (1991) and she is also an artist and short-story writer. She recently won the Brendan Behan award.

### NOEL MONAGHAN

Noel Monaghan is from Granard, Co. Longford, and is currently teaching history in Ballyjamesduff. He, too, is an editor and director of *Windows* to which he frequently contributes poems. His work has also appeared in a range of Irish, British and Australian magazines and anthologies and his first volume of verse, *Opposite Walls*, was published in 1991. A second volume is due to appear soon. Noel Monaghan has given readings, with Heather Brett in many parts of Ireland. In 1992 he won the Kilkenny Festival prize for poetry.

### GERRY HULL

Gerry Hull is a schoolteacher in Fivemiletown and is an authority on George Gissing. His poetry has appeared in many Irish and English magazines, including *Krino*, *Poetry Ireland*, *The Honest Ulsterman* and *Fortnight*. He intends to bring out a volume of poetry, *Settlement in the West*, illustrated by the Glaslough artist, Neil Gregg and published by *Windows*. Currently, he is poetry editor of the W.E.A. magazine, *Spark*.

## Wednesday 10th August 1994

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### PATRICIA CRAIG

Patricia Craig has for many years been engaged in the study of prose writings from the North of Ireland. She has lectured on this topic at the John Hewitt Summer School and her anthology, *The Rattle of the North*, was published by Blackstaff in 1992. She has also edited anthologies of humorous writing, detective stories and, most recently, writing about school. Her reviews and critical articles appear in many Irish and English newspapers and magazines.

**11.00** *Bus Tour of "Carleton Country" conducted by Mr. Jack Johnston (Lunch along the way)*

**3.00** *Patricia Craig - "Darkness over the Earth" William Carleton and Social Criticism*

**5.00** *Evening Meal*

**7.00** *Orion String Quartet Recital in Clogher Cathedral*

**8.30** *Story Theatre - "The Poor Scholar" directed by Larry Ryan*

Carleton's picture of life in Ulster is the only genuine record of the period: we see him robbing an Orange orchard, following Anne Duffy home after chapel, performing remarkable feats of strength, like throwing the weight higher over the beam than the big muscled local miller, Frank Farrell. Irish peasant life was at its most lively, before the dark plunge downwards of the famine years, and Carleton, a born mimic and sensitive, gathered his material instinctively, as a bee secretes honey.  
*John Montague (1952)*

# Thursday 11th August 1994

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11.00 Eileen Battersby - Address

12.00 Malcolm Scott -  
"The clash of words and  
music in the Gaelic world of  
William Carleton"

1.00 Lunch  
Fair Day in Clogher

5.00 Evening Meal

7.30 James Simmons - An  
Evening of Poetry and Song

Though there is  
a dark side to  
Carleton, a part  
of him that  
seems often to  
have been tor-  
tured almost  
beyoun bearing  
by the perennial  
murderous  
ferocity of the  
human haert,  
beyond and per-  
haps above this  
is a delight in  
the re-creation of  
a world which to  
him, afer all,  
was really the  
ordinary one.

Anthony  
Cronin  
(1962)

## EILEEN BATTERSBY

Eileen Battersby is a staff journalist with *The Irish Times* for which she also writes a weekly reveiw column of new fiction. She is also a regular contributor to *Fortnight* and her critical articles appear in most Irish literary journals. She includes Irish archaeology amongst her specialist interests.

## JAMES SIMMONS

James Simmons will be making his second visit as speaker to the Carleton School. He and his wife, Janice, at present run a school for writers at Poet's House, Islandmagee. Over the years he has published a number of volumes of verse, his latest being *The Cattle Rustling*, an interpretation of the *Tain Bó Cuailinge*. He has also published two selections of his poetry (1978 and 1986) and his critical work includes Sean O'Casey (1983).

## MALCOLM SCOTT

Malcolm Scott works as an Irish Language Development Officer with Newry & Mourne District Council.

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## Friday 12th August 1994

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11.00 Owen Dudley-Edwards -  
"Carleton and History"

1.00 Lunch

2.00 Pat McCabe - Reading from  
his own works

4.00 Gerald Dawe -  
"Carleton's Address"

6.00 Evening Meal

8.00 MacArdle Brothers - Play  
"Out of that Childhood  
Country"

Drawing on his  
vivid memories  
of his childhood  
in County  
Tyrone,  
Carleton  
presents with  
Chaucerian  
largesse a great  
gallery of lively  
country  
characters,  
pouring forth a  
memorable series  
of portraits of  
hedge school-  
masters, faction  
fighters, dancing  
masters, 'poor  
scholars',  
country fiddlers,  
and setting the  
country folk of  
his youth to  
their favourite  
activities at fairs  
and weddings,  
at wakes and  
pilgrimages.  
John Cronin  
(1984)

### OWEN DUDLEY-EDWARDS

Born in Dublin in 1938. Studied History at University College, Dublin. Currently a Reader in Commonwealth and American History at the University of Edinburgh. His books include *Celtic Nationalism*, as well as Studies of James Connolly, Arthur Conan Doyle, P.G. Woodhouse and Thomas Babington MacCaulay. His most recent publication is *Sherlock Holmes* (in 9 volumes). Owen Dudley-Edwards is a regular participant in the Edinburgh Festival.

### PATRICK McCABE

Patrick McCabe, born in Co. Monaghan, now lives in London. In 1979 he received the Hennessey Award for a short story and, subsequently, he has had many of his stories published in various newspapers and magazines. Two of his stories were broadcast on RTE and BBC. Two novels followed - *Music on Clinton Street* (1986) and *Carr* (1989) but it was *The Butcher Boy* (1992) that brought him real literary prominence. This novel won the Irish Times/Aer Lingus Literature Prize.

### GERALD DAWE

Gerald Dawe is a lecturer in English at Trinity College, Dublin and editor of the Galway-based magazine, *Krino*. His M.A. dissertation was a study of William Carleton. He has also edited poetry anthologies and critical essays and written on the cultural context of Irish writing in such works as *How's the Poetry Going* (1991). He is a regular speaker to the John Hewitt Summer School and contributes critical articles and reviews to most Irish literary and cultural journals. His latest volume of verse is *Sunday School* (1991).

# William Carleton Summer School 1994

## Bicentenary Celebration

**W**e have now reached 1994, the bi-centenary of the birth of Tyrone's greatest son, William Carleton, that well known man whom William Butler Yeates described as "*the best author that ever looked through Irish eyes*".

The front cover of this years Summer School Programme depicts a scene of the Clogher Valley and St. McCartans Cathedral. Carleton had many associations with his much loved Clogher and its ancient Cathedral. His parents along with six of his brothers and sisters are buried in the cemetery attached to Clogher Cathedral.

In one of Carleton's works "The Battle of the Factions" he gives a melancholy description of an exploit of Frank Farrel, the miller of Clogher Mill. Carleton states "*In my day most millers are carpenters*". Frank was no exception to his rule, and had the reputation of being an excellent artisan. In the Cathedral, there is a set of bells, one being, it is said, to weigh a ton. Frank was engaged in his capacity of carpenter to adjust something in connection with the bells in the Belfrey. While so engaged he took it into his head to try to lift the great bell and made tremendous effort, by placing a thick board across the mouth of the bell, under which he stood and actually raised it about six inches. The result was fatal to him, he had severely injured his spine and in the course of three months the bell was rung over his coffin.

*Carleton resolutely sets himself against that romantic commonplace, the carefree, happy peasant. He sets himself equally against the stereotype of Irish character. In the 'General Introduction' to the Traits and Stories he repeatedly attacks the myth of the stage-Irish 'Paddy'.*  
**Barbara Hayley (1990)**

Carleton may have been absent from Clogher for long periods but it would appear his heart and his thoughts lay with his own, the people of Clogher Parish. This is clearly apparent when reading his poem "Retrospections" the following is an extract from his poem.

Oh! memory brings a thousand things  
Which care cannot control;  
The scented heath and the orchard breath,  
And the strains which often stole  
At eve, from lips that made them dear  
To my impassioned soul.

When the morning ray of the Sabbath day  
Fell on my slumbering eye,  
And a stream more bright of heavenly light  
Spread round a holy joy,  
Oh! the worships of the warbling fields  
Rose gratefully on high.

And as the bell, whose distant swell  
From the grey cathedral's tower,  
With measured sweep, came slow and deep  
To ake devotion's power,  
'Twas sweet to join the village train  
And solemnize the hour.

Oh! Lumford's glen was lovely when  
In youthful joy I stood,  
And tried to call back echo's fall  
As it died in solitude;  
Or on Knockmany's peaceful top  
Reposed in thoughtful mood;

Then the moon would rise in cloudless skies  
And throw her beauteous veil  
Of shadowy light o'er the brow of night,  
Whilst through the groves of Teel  
Black-water's dark and silent stream  
Beneath her light would steal.

Now by the Rath I find my path,  
With quick and lengthened bound,  
Urged on by fear, lest I should hear  
Some strange, unearthly sound;  
Happy to meet the shepherd's boy  
Upon his nightly round.

Why is each tree so loved by me,  
Each early scenes so dear?  
The birds that sung when I was young  
Still sweetest in my ear?  
And why, as fancy brings them back,  
Now falls the pensive tear?



**DUNGANNON  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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