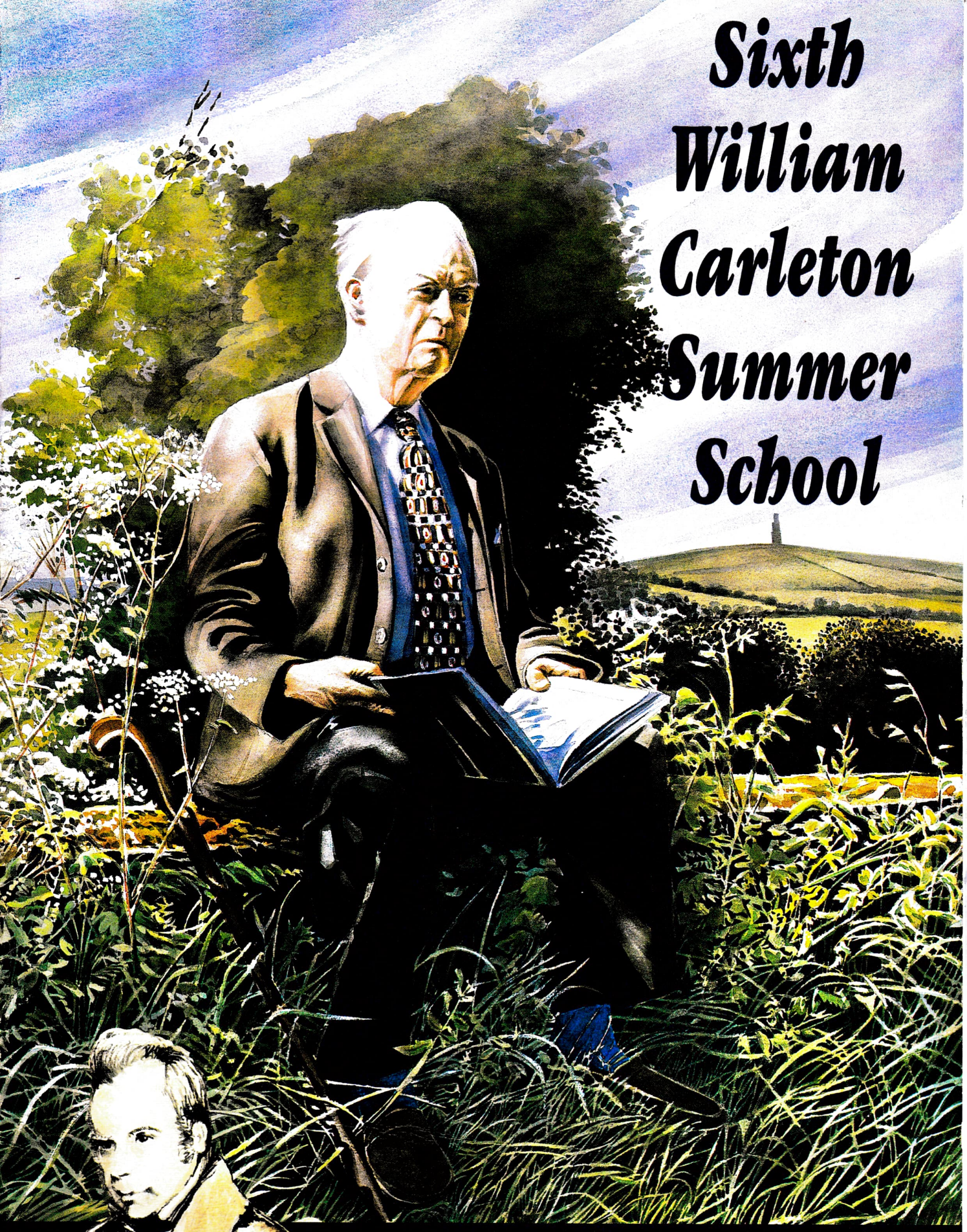
Sixth William Carleton Summer School



Corick House, Clogher

AUGUST 4 - 8, 1997

Carleton Chronology

1794	Born at Prolusk near Clogher.
c1797	Carleton family moved to Townagh.
1801	Began his schooling with Pat Frayne in 'Towney'.
c1806	Carleton family moved to Nurchossy.
1809	Family moved to Springtown.
c1817	Carleton left for Dublin.
1829	His first work published.
1830	***Traits and Stories***, first series, published.
1839	His first novel, ***Fardorougha the Miser***, published.
1844	Much enlarged edition of ***Traits and Stories*** published.
1846	Revisited Clogher Valley and met Brackenridge.
1855	1st Edition of ***Willy Reilly*** published. It later ran to over 30 editions.
1869	Carleton died in Dublin.
1896	Carleton's Autobiography published.
1947	Benedict Kiely's ***Poor Scholar*** published.
1962	Carleton Society formed in the Clogher Valley.
1964	Plaque unveiled at Springtown.
1970	***Carleton Newsletter*** founded in Florida, USA.
1985-86	Carleton's grave repaired at Mount Jerome.
1992	Inaugural Carleton Summer School.

William Carleton 1794 - 1869

There is no fear, however, of Carleton's name among our people. They...will not forget this one great peasant writer of their country, the man who remained ever a peasant, one of themselves, full of all their passion, all their feelings. Quite close to me, here in London, lives an old seamstress, very poor and pious, who remembers how he used to dine in her father's cabin - a peasant among peasants.

W.B. Yeats

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The Right Reverend Brian Hannnon
Dr Benedict Kiely
Dr Eileen Sullivan
Professor John Montague
Mr Jim Cavanagh
Mr Ken Maginnis, M.P
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Sixth William Carleton Summer School

Corick House, Clogher
August 4 - 8, 1997

Carleton's Dream

Carleton grew tired
Of wakes, cock-fights
And the sesquipedalian words
For the women,
Ardua ad Astra,
Five single notes up his sleeve
He went South.

In Grehan's Inn in Granard,
Ann the goose-girl,
Hopped into his sleep,
Dropped her linsey-woolsey gown
And fled for the fog in the field.

The drills were throbbing,
Thumping and pounding,
A briary bull burst
Through clay and wisps of fog.
William Carleton ran for his life,
The bull pursued him bellowing,
Tail curled, tail erect,
Horn and hoof to ravish him.

William made for the hedge,
Whitehorn, goat willow silvery grey,
Up and over, seven-foot high the lep,
Landed on his feet the far side.
The bull reared on his hind legs,
His long red pencil erect,
Testicles dancing in the sack.

The dream miasma
Puckered Willie's dibble,
Put him off his oats.
He pondered the nightmare,
Willie go easy, he thought to himself,
Taedet me vitae.

At Grehan's door in Granard,
He glanced South, turned North,
Back to the home brae,
Mother's milk and flummery.

Noel Monahan

Theme for 1997

1997 marks the fiftieth anniversary of ***Poor Scholar***, a study of William Carleton, by Benedict Kiely. At the time of this book's publication, poet and critic, John Hewitt, wrote:

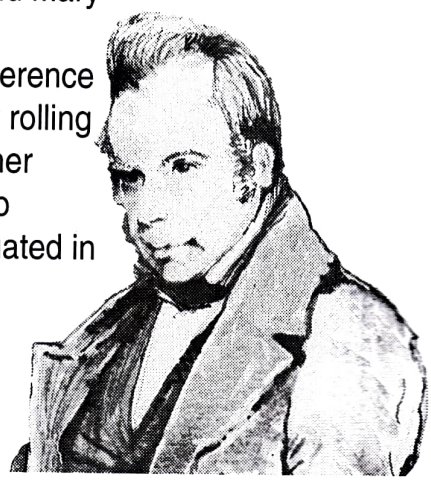
This book . . . is not only by a skilful writer, but by a man who knows his subject . . . Not only does he relate Carleton to the social background but he indicates, by placing his work in perspective, his relationship to the other Irish novelists of the period . . . and . . . demonstrates why Carleton, although he spent most of his life in Dublin, remained a completely peasant writer, and that the springs of his inspiration came solely from the countryside of his childhood and his kinsfolk . . . Mr Kiely has been able to give us a rich sense of landscape, so we feel we know thoroughly the pit whence Carleton was digged.

Our theme will, therefore, focus on Carleton and other 'poor scholars' of the North of Ireland who helped forge both a regional and national literary tradition. A re-issue of ***Poor Scholar*** will be launched during the School.

A century since, a geat Irishman said that the man who had not read William Carleton did not know the Irish people. The words are wisdom now as they were a hundred years ago. The approach to Carleton brings us to a period in the past when Irish faults and virtues were more strongly emphasised, more clearly distinguishable. This man saw deeply into the souls of his people, revealed in himsef the torture of his time. He saw the sunshine on the valley and heard the birdsong as sun and song must have been in some ancient time.
Benedict Kiely (1947)

The Location

The centre for this year's school will be Corick House, a seventeenth century William and Mary house, recently converted to a hotel with full conference facilities. Corick, set in splendidly rolling parkland in the heart of the Clogher Valley, would have been known to Carleton and his name is perpetuated in the hotel's 'Carleton Restaurant'. Corick is off the main Belfast to Enniskillen road, between the village of Augher and the small Cathedral Town of Clogher.



Monday 4th August

12.30 *Lunch*

2.00 *Official opening*

2.15 *Keynote address: "'Square Built Power': Yeats, Carleton and the Irish Nineteenth Century"*
Roy Foster

4.15 *Address: "'A Melancholy Task': Carleton's Autobiography"*
Eamonn Hughes

6.00 *Evening Meal*

8.00 *Poetry Readings:*
Ciaran Carson
and
James Simmons

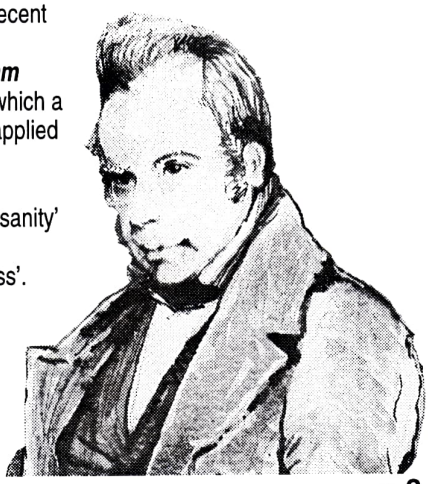
The novel of rural or peasant life is rooted in and proliferates out of the monumental achievement of William Carleton . . . Faddists and coterie-fuglemen may, from time to time, put forward the momentary name, but Carleton remains the greatest of the Irish novelists . . . It has been declared that Carleton was wordy; so, after all, is ***Finnegan's Wake.*** *I am old-fashioned enough to believe that a great writer's work must be bulky to make room for life.*
John Hewitt (1953)

ROY FOSTER
Roy Foster was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and has held senior academic posts at the universities of London and Princetown. He is currently Carroll Professor of Irish History at the University of Oxford and Fellow of Hertford College. He has published biographies of C.S. Parnell and Lord Randolph Churchill and essays on a range of historical topics. His ***Modern Ireland: 1600-1972***, which appeared in 1988, was particularly well received. Earlier this year, he published, to major critical acclaim, ***The Apprentice Mage***, the first of two volumes of the official biography of W.B. Yeats.

EAMONN HUGHES
Dr Eamonn Hughes is at present a lecturer in the School of English at Queen's University, Belfast. His principal interest is in Irish writing in English: he is a founder member of the British Association of Irish Studies and has done much research into literary biography and autobiography, especially in relation to Irish writers. Dr Hughes is a frequent contributor to such periodicals as ***The Irish Review*** and a collection of inter-disciplinary essays, ***Culture and Politics in Northern Ireland: 1960-1990***, published under his editorship in 1991, made a significant contribution to the ongoing Irish cultural debate.

CIARAN CARSON
Ciaran Carson works for the Arts Council of Northern Ireland as literary and traditional arts officer. In addition to his writing, he has a specialist interest in Irish music and published ***A Pocket Guide to Irish Traditional Music*** in 1986. His Irish language background is obvious in such poetry collections as ***The New Estate*** (1976) and ***The Irish for No*** (1987) and his sense of a changing Belfast informs both the latter and his award-winning ***Belfast Confetti*** (1989). His most recent book is ***First Language*** (1993).

JAMES SIMMONS
James Simmons makes a welcome return to the Summer School, having read from his work on two previous occasions. For the past seven years, he and his wife, Janice, have been offering courses in creative writing at 'The Poet's House', now operating from Falcarragh, Co Donegal. James Simmons has produced eleven volumes of poetry since ***Late but in Earnest*** (1967) and his ***Selected Poems*** which appeared in 1978 was extended and updated in 1986 as ***Poems, 1956-1986***.
His most recent work is ***Mainstream*** (1995) to which a critic has applied the terms 'candour', 'wisdom', 'sanity' and 'clear mindedness'.



Tuesday 5th August

11.00 *Launch of Wolfhound Press's re-issue of* ***Poor Scholar,*** *by Benedict Kiely*

12.00 *Address: "Subject and Style in Carleton's* ***Traits and Stories of the Irish Peasantry****" Colin Meir*

1.30 *Lunch*

3.00 *Address: "The Problems of the Irish Composer" John Montague*

4.30 *Readings from* ***The Honey Plain*** *Elizabeth Wassell*

6.00 *Evening Meal*

8.00 *Musical entertainment Mark Mohan*

In one of his lesser pieces Carleton gives the pronunciation of a word that I myself used in Tarry Flynn and which was the pronunciation I heard my mother use in certain circumstances; and which carried a subtle overtone of comedy.
The word was 'cure-ossity' for curiosity. It is a tiny example but it is by these tiny examples that the genuineness of dialogue and dialect can be tested. It is in such small things that a writer shows his courage...Carleton's stories abound with such touches.
Patrick Kavanagh (1962)

BENEDICT KIELY
Dr Benedict Kiely has been a patron of the Williarn Carleton Summer School since its foundation. A native of Co. Tyrone, Dr Kiely has spent most of his working life in Dublin as a journalist, broadcaster, lecturer, editor, novelist and short-story writer. His publications include the novels ***Harbour Green*** (1949), ***Dogs Enjoy the Morning*** (1968) and ***Nothing Happens in Carmincross*** (1985), his most recent collection of stories, ***A Letter to Peachtree*** (1987), and a memoir, ***Drink to the Bird*** (1991). His study of William Carleton, ***Poor Scholar***, first appeared in 1947 and he provided the Introduction for the re-issue of Carleton's ***The Autobiography*** which was launched at last year's Summer School.

COLIN MEIR
Dr Colin Meir has recently retired as Reader in English at the University of Ulster. He has been Visiting Professor of English in France and in Japan and is external examiner for the degrees of M.A. and Ph.D. in Anglo-Irish literature for the National University of Ireland. He has contributed to numerous periodicals and other publications include ***Ballads and Songs of W.B. Yeats*** (1974), a study of Dylan Thomas's ***Under Milk Wood*** and a book of translations into French of selections from the work of poets from the north of Ireland.

JOHN MONTAGUE
John Montague, a patron of the Carleton Summer School since its beginning, has long been a major Irish poet. His ***Collected Poems*** (1995) draws on poems from his earliest published volume, ***Forms of Exile*** (1958) through ten subsequent volumes to a significant long poem, 'Border Sick Call' (1995). John Montague has held senior academic posts in Ireland, France and the United States and has published many critical essays, a selection of which were published as ***The Figure in the Cave*** (1989).

ELIZABETH WASSELL
Elizabeth Wassell is an American who now lives in West Cork. She has lectured in English, studied fiction writing with Edna 0 Brien and published in various magazines. Her experience of Irish Summer Schools and their *habitué(e)s* has been amusingly, and sometimes sardonically, reflected in her first novel, ***The Honey Plain*** (1997).

Wed 6th August

11.00 *Tour of the Carleton Country*
Leader: Jack Johnston

4.00 *Address: "Charlie Donnelly - From Killybrackey to Jarama"*
Jim Cavanagh

6.00 *Evening Meal*

8.00 *Recital:*
Ulster Orchestra Brass Ensemble
(in St. Patrick's Church, Clogher)

JACK JOHNSTON
Jack Johnston was the first chairman of the William Carleton Summer School. He has written widely on local history, especially that relating to the Clogher Valley, and has published an illustrated account of the local railway, ***In the Days of the Clogher Valley***. He has recently edited ***Workhouses of the North-West*** and has, since 1991, been general editor of the W.E.A. journal, ***Spark***.

JIM CAVANAGH
Jim Cavanagh, formerly a school principal in Co Tyrone, was one of the initiators of the William Carleton Summer School of which he is now a patron. He has been active in local politics for many years as a councillor and has been involved with local dramatic and music societies in programmes in both Irish and English.

Sweet, though short,
our hours as a family together.
Driving across dark mountains
To Midnight Mass in Fivemiletown'
Lights coming up in the valleys
as in the days of Carleton.

John Montague (1984)

Thursday 7th August

11.30 *Address: "A Grammar of Imperatives: Education for All and a Few of its Effects"*
Patricia Craig

1.00 *Lunch*

2.15 *Address: "'The Margins of Subsistence': Shan Bullock and the Ulster borderland tradition"*
Patrick Maume

4.00 *Address: "Between Two Worlds: Ulster's Rural Bards and the search for literary identity"*
Ivan Herbison

6.00 *Evening Meal*

7.30 *Drama presentation:* ***Lovers****, by Brian Friel*
Produced by Margaret Hull

Although Carleton's achievement is streaked and flawed in many ways, he succeeded, more than any other novelist, in going beyond the depiction of individuals as types of the national character. The pedantry, which often weighs so heavily on his writing, was in part the self-consciousness of a man who wanted to impress his audience with his command of 'educated ' English, a language over which he had a very uncertain control.
He knew Irish and, from his preparation for the priesthood, some Latin. The three languages combine together in his work to produce incongruous effects, although Carleton found a way of eploiting these...
Seamus Deane (1986)

PATRICIA CRAIG
This year will be Patricia Craig's second contribution to the Summer School. As a literary retrievalist, she has written and lectured on the lesser known writers from the north of Ireland and has included their work as well as that of more celebrated writers in her 1992 anthology, ***The Rattle of the North***, which has recently been a recommended text for 'A' level study. She has also edited anthologies of humorous writing, detective stories and writing about school. In 1986 she published a biography of the Anglo-Irish novelist, Elizabeth Bowen, and is, at present, working on a study of Brian Moore.

PATRICK MAUME
Dr Patrick Maume lectures in the Department of Politics in Queen's University, Belfast. He published a monograph on the Cork writer and academic, Daniel Corkery, ***"Life that is Exile": Daniel Corkery and the Search for Irish Ireland*** in 1993 and, also on the theme of "Irish Ireland", a biography of D.P. Moran, in 1995. Recently he has been researching the writings of the Fermanagh novelist, Shan F. Bullock, on which he has presented a number of papers.

IVAN HERBISON
Dr Ivan Herbison is a lecturer in the School of English in Queen's University, Belfast, specialising in language studies. Of particular interest to him are the writings of the early nineteenth century "weaver" poets of east Ulster, including those of his own ancestor David Herbison, and in 1988 he published ***Webs of Fancy: Poems of David Herbison, The Bard of Dunclug***. He also acknowledged the contribution of the weaver poets to the cultural identity of Ulster in a 1989 publication, ***Language, Literature and Cultural Identity: An Ulster-Scots Perspective***.

MARGARET HULL
Margaret Hull studied drama with Sam McCready at the University of Wales, of which she is a graduate, and is now Head of Drama in Fivemiletown High School. She has worked with the directors of the Lyric Theatre and the Ulster Theatre Company and is presently involved with community drama and the Enniskillen Amateur Dramatic Society. She has contributed significantly to the emergence of drama and theatre studies as an examination subject in schools outside Belfast and Derry.

Friday 8th August

11.30 *Address: "Carleton and Regional Writing"*
Robin Marsh

1.00 *Lunch*

2.15 *Novel readings:*
Mary O Donnell
and
Fred Johnston

3.30 *Overview and concluding address*
Owen Dudley Edwards

ROBIN MARSH
Robin Marsh has been Director of the Carleton Summer School since 1993. He is a graduate of Queen's University and the University of Ulster and was awarded his doctorate by Queen's for a study of cultural identity in the north of Ireland with special reference to the poet and cultural philosopher, John Hewitt. He is presently preparing a study of the Irish Big House novel since 1960.

MARY 0 DONNELL
Mary 0 Donnell is a teacher, broadcaster, poet and novelist. Her publications include two poetry collections, ***Reading the Sunflowers in September*** and ***Spiderwoman's Third Avenue Rhapsody***, and the novel, ***Virgin and the Boy***.

FRED JOHNSTON
Fred Johnston began his career as a journalist in Belfast and now lives in Galway from where he continues reviewing and other journalistic work.
He has contributed poems and short stories to various periodicals and book length publications include the poetry collections, ***Life and Death in the Midlands*** (1979), ***A Scarce Light*** (1987) and, most recently, ***True North*** (1997), and his novel, ***Picturing a Girl in a Spanish Hat*** (1979).

OWEN DUDLEY EDWARDS
Owen Dudley Edwards is Honorary Director of the Carleton Summer School and has been a regular contributor since its beginnings in 1992.
Although history is his discipline and he is currently Reader in History at the University of Edinburgh, Owen, in keeping with that university's treasured tradition of 'generalism', is very much a polymath.
He has published works on Macauley, de Valera, Conan Doyle, P.G. Wodehouse and James Connolly and is a recognised authority on Oscar Wilde. He is also a frequent radio broadcaster and has during the past year presented a radio series on "The Seven Deadly Virtues".

Carleton's hope for a better life for the people of Ireland and for himself kept foundering in a mesh of contradictions and unresolvable tensions.
He was trapped between ancestral and modern forces, between a sense of Catholic community and Protestant iconoclasm, between imaginative despair and rational optimism. None of the identities he assumed as a writer really worked for very long.
He drew strength from, reinforced and was intellectually hampered by an atavistic sense of tradition.
Norman Vance (1990)

Acknowledgements

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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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