

MARCELLA GRACE
 DOUGLAS HYDE
 Heroes
 séadna
 A MUNSTER TWILIGHT
 THOMAS CLARKE
 DUBLINERS
 RIDERS TO THE SEA
 THE TRIUMPH OF FAILURE
 MHCARCAIS
 BHI
 PATRICK PEARSE
 ULYSSES
 shadow of a gunman
 ARTHUR GRIFFITH
 GEORGE BERNARD SHAW
 WB YEATS
 GLENANAR
 OSCAR WILDE
 JAMES JOYCE
 Ireland in the new century
 ISABELLA AUGUSTA GREGORY
 JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK
 THE PLOUGH AND THE STARS
 The Resurrection of Hungary

THE CRUCIAL
100

ONE HUNDRED
 BOOKS WHICH
 INSPIRED
 A REVOLUTION



Published in 2013 by

Cork City Libraries

57-61 Grand Parade

Cork, Ireland

All rights reserved

Design and typesetting by Stephen Leach, Cork City Libraries

Typeset in TheMix font

LORD MAYOR'S WELCOME

When I launched the City Libraries' IT SEEMS HISTORY IS TO BLAME programme on 2 February, I warmly welcomed this timely initiative. The programme is designed to encourage the people of the city to learn from the past, in order to build a better tomorrow.

It is entirely appropriate that the first event in the programme is centred on books, in particular a selection of one hundred books which shaped the thinking of the generation who made the revolution in Ireland. The one hundred books featured in the exhibition are not simply political, however; there are novels by a wide variety of writers, from Annie M P Smithson to Canon Sheehan, to Joyce; the gems of the Gaelic Revival from Lady Gregory, Douglas Hyde, and W B Yeats, and many more besides. I am delighted that the public will have the opportunity to make their own nominations for what they believe were crucial books, and that the Libraries staff will take these nominations on board.

This promises to be an exciting, challenging and diverse programme that will engage and stimulate the mind, while provoking political debate and discourse.

Cllr. John Buttimer, Lord Mayor of Cork

'The Crucial 100': An Introduction

The historian EH Carr, in his seminal essay 'What is history?', writes "we can view the past and achieve our understanding of the past only through the eyes of the present".

Cork City Libraries' programme **It Seems History is to Blame**, of which this exhibition is the first major event, seeks not just to understand the past, but to learn from it. We offer this decade-long programme as a contribution to Cork's efforts to make sense of the period from 1913 to 1923, and more importantly, our efforts to discuss what lessons we might learn from the positives and negatives of the cultural and social developments of one hundred years ago.

Fully understanding what happened should be greatly helped by knowing what people were reading and thinking at the time; literature serves as a way to consider the world as it then was. And as Thomas McCarthy relates in his essay introducing the one hundred books, "books as they settle over decades in their library shelves become powerful and silent witnesses of history".

The world has taken many a turn since Jim Larkin led the Dublin transport workers in the Lockout of 1913. Within 10 months the assassination of Franz Ferdinand had lit the awful conflagration that engulfed Europe, and later other parts of the world. In quick succession followed the Easter Rising, the Somme, Gallipoli. Europe's empires gave way to successor states such as Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia. The Irish fought for their independence, and then fought each other to determine the nature of that independence.

This list of one hundred crucial titles is the best estimate of one group of people, albeit a group whose life is working with books in Cork City Council's library service. We have put together this list fully accepting that other people will have other ideas, and we welcome the public's choices of which books should be included, and indeed which ones should be left out.

I thank my colleagues for the infectious enthusiasm, wealth of ideas, and commitment to public service they have shown in putting this programme together.

Liam Ronayne
Cork City Librarian

The Silent Treasure of Books

Some time ago a group of library staff, from every part of the service, Lending, e-Libraries, Special Collections and Local Studies, Reference and the branch network, were asked by the City Librarian to think how best Cork City Libraries might mark the great decade of national centenaries that begin in 2013. Full of that new unbearable lightness of computers, of phishing, tweeting and flaring, we immediately thought of setting up online discussion groups and debates. Then we thought of the one treasure with which we are all familiar in our working lives, the silent treasure of books. We are not historians. We cannot arbitrate upon competing visions of history in the manner of highly-trained university teachers, but being librarians does insert us into a pivotal role as keepers of documents and books.

Guiding people to sources of information is our daily task, and in the public library we've all been trained, one way or another, to take this matter very seriously. After much discussion and debate, it was

decided that we would look at what we have. Along with all the new digital material, we still have a marvellous collection of books, and many of these books belong to the era that Ireland is now ready to commemorate. In our keeping, they remain for every library user as the raw witnesses of great national conflagrations. This little Soviet or cabinet of librarians drew up a list of one hundred publications that show the depth and breadth of public debate in Ireland in the emergent years of 1900 to 1923.

Books as they settle over decades in their library shelves become powerful and silent witnesses of history. In this way such books fulfil a dual function that gets to the very core of the meaning of a public library service — when first published they are full of the heat and controversy of their age, but over time they accumulate for us as a gift of more than one possible reading of the past. There are many versions of the past, and books bear witness to the multiplicity of viewpoints our forebears carried. Opinions we take for granted today were not the opinions of yesterday. Irish history is still an unsettled and disputed territory. The immense power

of John Redmond and his Parliamentary regime was swept away by the trauma of Easter 1916 and the War of Independence. The slaughter on the Somme was far more extensive and brutal than anything that happened in Ireland, yet the near fulfilment of our National Struggle has pushed the Somme to the margins of national remembrance.

How we choose to remember each event is coded with our own political view of the future. In the manner of the books as they arrived at the Edwardian Librarian's desk, we still try to advance our points of view with historic emblems, the Poppy, the Easter Lily. In Ireland, tragically, we do not share a common dead, but we share all their books. Public library shelves will always contain more than the partial, contended memory; they will, rather, contain the awkward, dissenting versions of events as well as the revered volumes that reflected the widest political consensus. Books have always been used as tools of political action, to state policy rhetorically and gather public support, but books arrive in the library in a simple search for readers. Eventually, by trial and error, a book creates its own

powerful advocates, its first enthusiastic readership.

There is a wide range of books here, for the early 1900s was a new era of great soul-searching among readers of the old Carnegie Libraries as well as the private clubs and subscription libraries. Key cultural works such as Douglas Hyde's hugely influential *Religious Songs of Connaught* or Brooke and Rolleston's *Treasury of Irish Poetry* were part of a massive strengthening of the national cultural point of view. Culturally, they seemed to prepare the reader's mind for the even more purposeful *The Framework of Home Rule* by Erskine Childers or Hobson's *The Creed of the Republic*. Father Dinneen's *Foclóir Gaedhilge agus Béarla* and Peadar Ó Laoghaire's *Séadna* were foundation stones for the new edifice of Irish reading and learning.

Yet, there was a political and cultural dissonance also at work in the world of books. William O'Brien's decently honest account of the issues at hand can be seen in his *The Irish Revolution and how it came about*. His is one of the best descriptions of the fracture among Irish parliamentarians at Westminster, a Unionist – Nationalist split that reached

its nadir under Balfour's premiership. As early as 1904 Horace Plunkett in his *Ireland in the New Century* expressed reservations about a rural Irish society that might lose its sense of purpose under the moral influence of an overly politicised clergy.

Plunkett's book sold in enormous quantities, as did the much more scathing attack on Church influence, *Priests and People in Ireland* by the Catholic barrister, Michael J.F. McCarthy – the book sold nearly ten thousand copies within two months of publication. McCarthy revelled in contrasting the prosperity of Protestant Ulster with the decline of the Catholic south; his chapter contrasting the industry of Belfast with the silence of Cork harbour may have got its reply in Corkery's preface to his *The Threshold of Quiet*, though the Joycean social paralysis mapped by Corkery might have clinched McCarthy's tendentious arguments. Whatever their influence, these books had a wide readership and their ultimate political manifestations can be seen in the two foundation documents of our divided island, the *Proclamation* of 1916 and the *Ulster Covenant*.

This is our list of one hundred crucial books. We look forward to our readers' choices.

Thomas McCarthy
Librarian and poet



The Crucial 100

"I can quite understand that, he said calmly. An Irishman must think like that, I daresay. We feel in England that we have treated you rather unfairly. It seems history is to blame."

James Joyce, *Ulysses*

Æ (George Russell)

Co-operation and nationality
(1912)

Thoughts for a convention (1917)

**Stopford Augustus Brooke &
T.W. Rolleston (editors)**

Treasury of Irish poetry (1900)

Sir Roger Casement

*Ireland, Germany and the
freedom of the seas: A possible
outcome of the war of 1914*
(1914)

*Sir Roger Casement's diaries: His
mission to Germany and
the Findlay affair* (1922)

Robert Erskine Childers

The framework of home rule
(1911)

Thomas Clarke

*Glimpses of an Irish felon's prison
life* (1922)

Arthur Clery

The idea of a nation (1907)

James Connolly

Labour in Irish history (1910)
Labour, nationality and religion
(1910)

Daniel Corkery

A Munster twilight (1917)
The threshold of quiet (1917)

Frederick Hugh Crawford

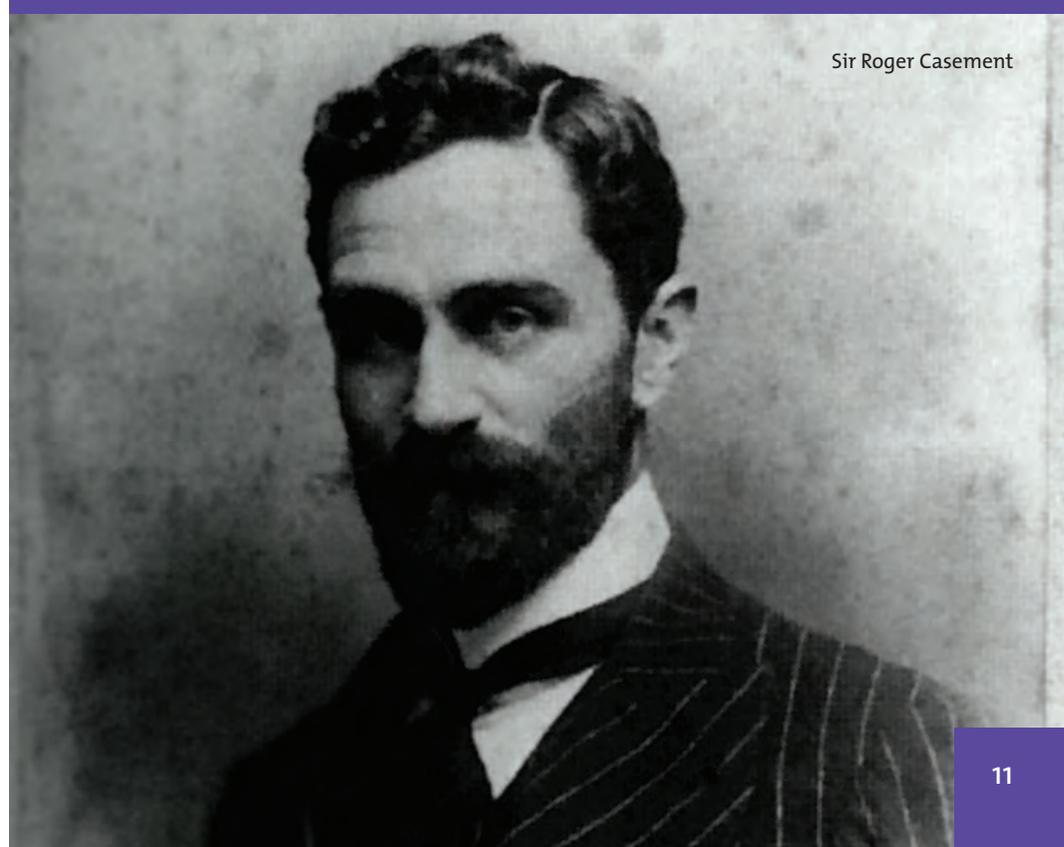
Why I voted for the Six Counties
(1920)

Michael Davitt

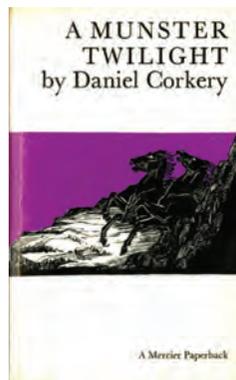
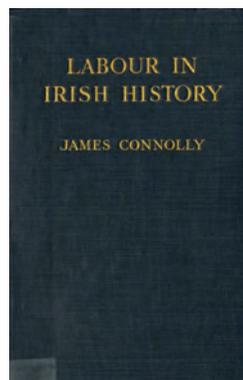
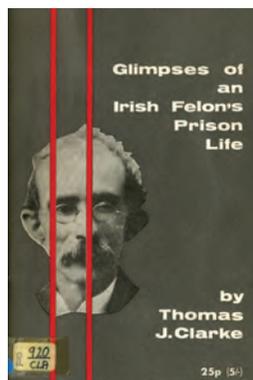
The fall of feudalism in Ireland
(1904)



Æ (George Russell)

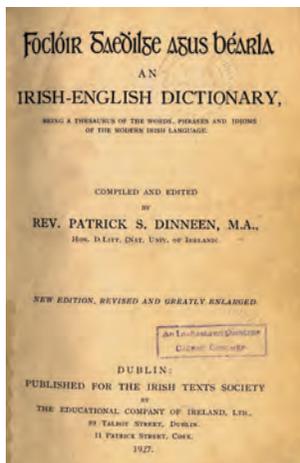


Sir Roger Casement



Patrick S. Dinneen

Foclóir Gaedhilge agus Béarla
(1904)



Alice Stopford Green

The old Irish world (1912)

Isabella Augusta Gregory

Cuchulainn of Muirthemne (1902)

Spreading the news (1905)

Kincora (1905)

The rising of the moon (1907)

Arthur Griffith

The resurrection of Hungary
(1904)

R.M. Henry

The evolution of Sinn Féin (1920)

Bulmer Hobson

The creed of the Republic (1907)

Edmund Hogan

Onomasticon Goedelicum (1910)

Eleanor Hull

The Cuchullin saga in Irish literature (1898)

Douglas Hyde

The love songs of Connacht (1893)

A literary history of Ireland (1899)

Casadh an tSugáin (1901)

The religious songs of Connacht
(1906)

Songs ascribed to Raftery (1909)

James Joyce

Chamber music (1907)

Dubliners (1914)

A portrait of the artist as a young man (1916)

Ulysses (1922)

P.W. Joyce

A social history of ancient Ireland
(1903)

Michael J. F. McCarthy

Priests and people in Ireland
(1902)

Eoin MacNeill

Phases of Irish history (1919)

Celtic Ireland (1921)



Ronald MacNeill

Ulster's stand for union (1922)

Thomas MacDonagh

Literature in Ireland (1916)

Poetical works (1916)

Brinsley MacNamara

Valley of the squinting windows
(1918)

Below: Lady Augusta Gregory





Terence MacSwiney

The music of freedom (1907)

The revolutionist (1914)

Principles of freedom (1921)

Alice Milligan

Hero lays (1908)

George Moore

The untilled field (1903)

D.P. Moran

The philosophy of Irish Ireland
(1905)

Hugh Smith Morrison

*Modern Ulster: Its character,
customs, politics and industries*
(1920)

Rosa Mulholland

Marcella Grace (1886)

William O'Brien

Recollections (1905)

*The downfall of
parliamentarianism* (1918)

*The Irish revolution and how it
came about* (1923)

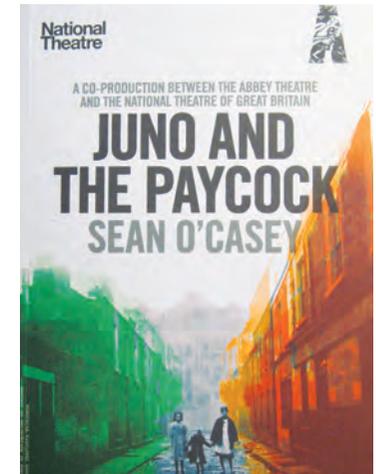
Left: Terence MacSwiney

Seán O'Casey

Shadow of a gunman (1923)

Juno and the paycock (1924)

The plough and the stars (1926)



Pádraic Ó Conaire

*Nóra Mharcais Bhig agus scéalta
eile* (1909)

Seacht mbuadh an éirighe amach
(1918)

Standish James O'Grady

History of Ireland (1878-1880)

Cuculain: an epic (1882)

Eugene O'Growney

*Simple lessons in Irish; giving the
pronunciation of each word*
(1894)

Peadar Ó Laoghaire

Séadna (1904)

Mo scéal féin (1915)



Francis O'Neill

Irish minstrels and musicians
(1913)

Moira O'Neill

Songs of the glens of Antrim (1921)

Patrick Pearse

The murder machine (1916)

The separatist idea (1916)

The sovereign people (1916)

The spiritual nation (1916)

Collected works (1917)

Horace Plunkett

Ireland in the new century (1904)

T.W. Rolleston

Celtic myths and legends (1911)

George Bernard Shaw

Man and superman (1903)

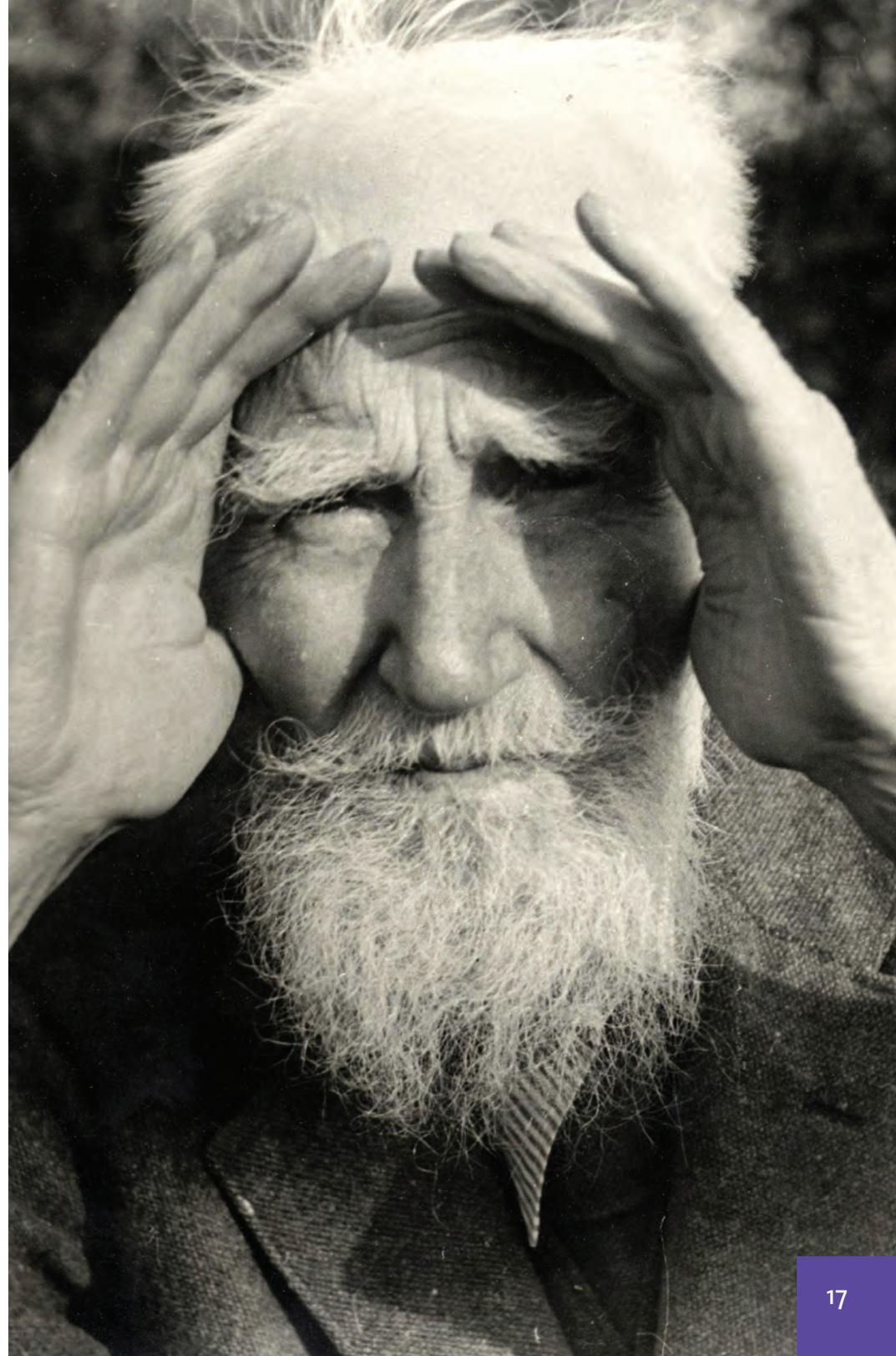
John Bull's other island (1904)

Major Barbara (1907)


BERNARD SHAW
**JOHN BULL'S
OTHER ISLAND**



Right: George Bernard Shaw

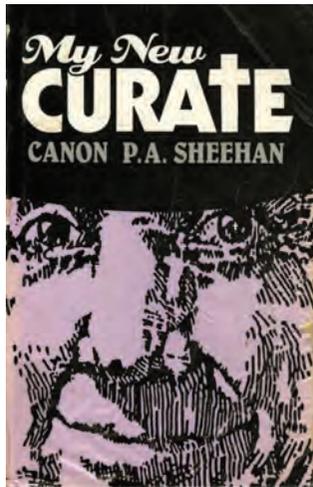


Patrick Augustine Sheehan

The triumph of failure (1898)

My new curate (1900)

Glenanaar (1905)



Francis Sheehy-Skeffington

Michael Davitt: revolutionary, agitator and labour leader (1908)

Dora Sigerson Shorter

The tricolour: poems of the Irish revolution (1922)

Annie M.P. Smithson

Her Irish heritage (1917)

The walk of a queen (1922)

Somerville & Ross

The real Charlotte (1894)

Some experiences of an Irish RM (1899)

Mount Music (1919)

James Stephens

The insurrection in Dublin (1916)

John Millington Synge

In the shadow of the glen (1903)

Riders to the sea (1904)

The well of the saints (1905)

The playboy of the western world (1907)

The tinker's wedding (1908)

Deirdre of the sorrows (1910)

Katherine Tynan

The years of the shadow (1919)

Oscar Wilde

The importance of being earnest (1895)

William Butler Yeats

Poems and ballads of young Ireland (1888)

The Countess Cathleen (1892)

The Celtic Twilight (1893)

Cathleen Ni Houlihan (1902)

The wild swans at Coole (1919)

Michael Robartes and the dancer (1921)



Above: John Millington Synge
Below: Edith Somerville and Violet 'Martin' Ross





Autumn 2013 programme

Event Highlights, all in the City Library, Grand Parade, Cork

<i>Date</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Topic</i>
10 September	Prof Tom Dunne	Commemorations and shared history: how we might approach the period
1 October	Theo Dorgan	“Ireland, as distinct from her people, is nothing to me”
22 October	Dr Carmel Quinlan	‘What women wanted’: Irishwomen in the revolutionary era
19 November	Prof Brian Walker	Unionist Voices – Ulster and the South
7 December	Gerry Whyte	Irish Volunteer Roadshow

There will be a Cork launch for the *James Connolly Songbook* on 2 October, in the City Library.

An exhibition on Canon Sheehan, his life and works, will be held in the City Library from 7 to 26 October.

In 2014 and subsequent years, Cork City Libraries will organize

- ◇ A range of talks and other events centred on books and writings.
- ◇ A series of workshops / facilitated sessions focused on specific aspects of what is meant by a republic.
- ◇ ‘What if . . .’ scenarios: looking at what might have been.
- ◇ The online publication of reading lists, background information, talks, records of workshops, blogs, videos, podcasts, online exhibitions etc.

A Cork City Libraries Programme

IT SEEMS
HISTORY
IS TO
BLAME

Ireland
1913-1923

www.historytoblame.ie

Cork City Libraries
57-61 Grand Parade
Cork

353 21 4924900

www.corkcitylibraries.ie
www.corkpastandpresent.ie
www.historytoblame.ie



LIBRARIES
LEABHARLANNA

CORK CITY COUNCIL | COMHAIRLE CATHRACH CHORCAI