

HTAI Newsletter



Compiled and edited by Liz Russell

Winter 2010/11

Prof Hugh Gough takes ‘french leave’ with some Gallic figures

What do the following have in common: Edith Piaf, Zinedine Zidane, Charles Aznavour, Yves Montand and Nicholas Sarkozy? Before we all say, ‘French of course’ - think again! Although these people may seem as gallic to us as onion



Prof. Hugh Gough speaking

sellers and the Eiffel Tower, they are not, in fact, ‘pure French’. This was one of the myths debunked by Professor Hugh Gough during his keynote address at annual conference in the Grand Hotel, Malahide, in October. In a vibrant, fact-filled hour-long address to over 150 delegates, Prof Gough introduced us to France as one of the first developed nations open or attractive to immigrants. Apart from the USA, France took in more immigrants than anyone else. He took us on a fascinating journey; almost everyone started taking notes when he chronicled the influx of Africans right up to the infamous Jean Marie Le Pen’s showing in recent elections. This was as interesting as it was relevant; it laid a great foundation for the up-and-coming case study. Saturday began with excellent and practical sessions reviewing the marking of last June’s Junior and Leaving Cert exams; as ever our experts Dr Kieran Foley and Susan Cashell

produced well-grounded information which equips us well for exam preparation. Another highlight was Dr Eamon Phoenix from Queen’s University whose lecture provided numerous interesting facts for our NI case studies. Workshops were aplenty- it was difficult to choose only 2; new departures included Mary Kennedy’s session on using wikis in the classroom and Mary O’Dubhain’s introduction to blogs, podcasts, the social media et al. This has been extended to a 10-hour course in conjunction with Teachnet; fine examples of twenty-first century learning! Numerous exhibitors were also present and proved extremely popular; several



Maureen Cooney

publishers, the NMI, Glasnevin, the GAA, the Irish Film Institute and NST Tours to name just a few. Malahide Castle was on hand for an excellent tour on the Sunday morning which rounded off a very successful conference. Well done Dublin Branch for all the work! Next autumn’s venue is Killarney hosted by the Kerry Branch!



Faces from the Conference. Pictures by: Robert Mullan

Clockwise from top left: Terry Dolan announcing the schedule; Maureen Cooney, President; Prof Hugh Gough; Mark Smith, Cork with Ann de Valera, Dublin; the audience listening to Hugh Gough; Hazel Gannon, Loreto College Crumlin Road; John O'Neill, FCJ Bunclody.

Glasnevin Cemetery

Glasnevin Cemetery opened in 1832 and is the largest in the country. Over a million people are buried here in the country's first non-denominational graveyard. A recent addition to the site is the magnificent Glasnevin Museum; this interactive visitor attraction offers a fascinating view of Ireland's Necropolis and the many renowned figures that shape the country we live in today. Suitable for all all groups and levels, a school trip to Glasnevin can bring the devastating effects of the Great Famine to life where students will learn all about the Poor Ground burial areas in the cemetery. Students can

also view the graves of Michael Collins, de Valera, Countess Markievicz and Elizabeth O'Farrell to name just a few.

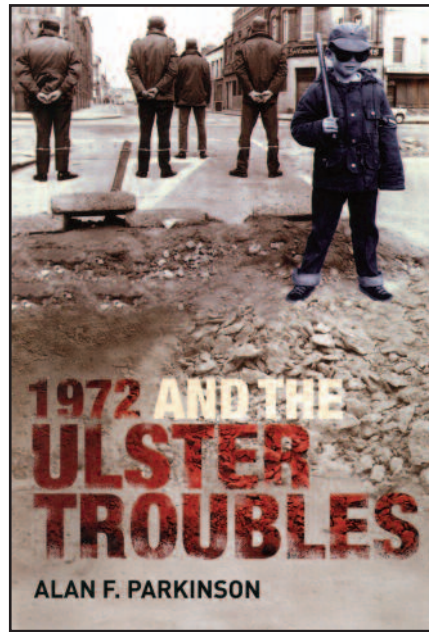


Historical Fiction



Historical fiction can be used very effectively in the classroom; it chronicles dramatic and perilous eras in history and can engage the student to get a vivid picture of the time. New from O'Brien Press are two novels; *Fugitives* by Aubrey Flegg takes place in 1607 when Hugh O'Neill is forced to flee Ireland; *Across the Divide* by Brian Gallagher humanises the events of the 1913 Lockout when an unlikely friendship from opposite sides of the divide tests the characters' loyalties.

Ulster Troubles



1972 saw the height of the Ulster Troubles - much has been written about this but a recent book from Four Courts Press by Alan F Parkinson is worthy of consideration for those of us teaching NI. Parkinson, when selecting the year, saw it as a microcosm of the entire conflict; he contrasts this with the perceived optimism of the 1960s and charts the province's descent into mayhem. He charts this turbulent year brilliantly blending narrative and analysis.

Pawn Stars



An unlikely runaway success all over the world, the History Channel's 'Pawn Stars' features three generations of the Harrison family, long-established Las Vegas pawn brokers. In one week their shop sees more antique memorabilia than a busy museum curator; each piece comes with fascinating accompanying stories. Examples are banknotes with Benjamin Franklin's signature and a chronometer used by Admiral Fitzroy. Channel Number 529.

Historiana

Euroclio, the European Association of History Educators has launched an excellent new multimedia resource called Historiana. Intended for use in the classroom, Historiana provides several perspectives on historical events and intends to create opportunities to compare history and heritage across time and regions. An example of one of the numerous themes is 'People on the Move' dealing with escapes from famine, plague, war, unemployment, pogroms and other forms of persecution. There are excellent accompanying visualisations as well as information about getting involved as teachers, institutions such as schools and museums or anyone with a general interest in history. Take a look on: www.historiana.eu



HTAI on Facebook

Facebook, the fastest growing social media in history, now features the HTAI! Created by Valerie Foley, CEC member and Chair of the North Munster Branch, new members are joining every week. We want all members of the association on board, so, sign up to Facebook, find the HTAI page and join up. Write on the wall, meet your friends and don't forget to leave a comment. In addition you can join the debate regarding the prescribed topic for Leaving Cert!

Dates for your diary

Hedge Schools and Byrne-Perry Summer School to name but two!



History Ireland magazine has come up with a novel approach to promoting History - a series of Hedge Schools. Lively round-table discussions featuring historians and well-known personalities, there have already been successful events at the Electric Picnic and Phizzfest. Next is one at the National Library, Dublin on Wednesday 12 Jan at 7pm. Furthermore, the only summer school in Ireland totally dedicated to history takes place in Gorey, Co Wexford, every year. The Byrne-Perry Summer School's dates for next year are 24-26 June.

We have relaunched our website - www.htai.ie



Contributions wanted!

Remember this newsletter is available to all members of the HTAI and we want to hear from you! If you have any comments, news or views for our next issue, please email them to me, Liz Russell, at: liz.history@gmail.com