'From Quills and Scrolls to Wordplay on Whiteboards'

Creative Writing Workshops at the Museum

Venue: National Museum of Decorative Arts and History, Collins Barracks

What might it have been like going to school in the 19th century? Imagine how in a series of special workshops for 4th, 5th, and 6th classes, facilitated by the well-known writer, Terry McDonagh.

In these special workshops, linked with an exhibition on the Kildare Place Society and Schooling in the 19th century, at the National Museum, Collins Barracks, students will have the opportunity to:

- visit the exhibition
- examine artefacts
- work with a writer
- create their own responses to the experience of school then and now.

These workshops will be linked to a range of curriculum strands. They are free of charge and booking is essential. A **Teachers' Workshop** will be held on 12th March in preparation for those who wish to book a class visit.

This initiative is organised by the National Museum of Ireland (NMI), Poetry Ireland Writers-in-Residence Scheme, and the Church of Ireland College of Education (CICE).

Terry McDonagh

Terry's work has been published worldwide, both in literary journals and anthologies, and in his own books. Terry's book 'Boxes', a collection of poems for young people, has allowed him to establish his place in the Irish school and library programmes, and he has delivered creative writing workshops, drama workshops, and poetry readings for adults and children. For more information on Terry McDonagh, see http://www.terry-mcdonagh.com/.



To book: contact the Bookings Office of the NMI by email or phone on +353 1 6486453





Workshop details

Venue: National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts and History, Collins Barracks

12th March, 4pm – 6pm Teachers' workshop: March 13th, 14th, 15th Students' workshops:

April 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th

10am - 12 noon and 12 noon - 2pm Time:

Duration of visit: 2 hours

4th, 5th and 6th class – Primary Suitable for: Capacity: Each workshop can accommodate one class (max. 30).

The workshop is in two parts.

- 1. Students will start with a visit to the Kildare Place Society exhibition. This will form the basis of their inspiration for the creative writing workshop.
- 2. The students will then work with poet Terry McDonagh in the Museum's Learning Resource room using brainstorming and group-work techniques to create a story, mini-saga or Haiku poem based on an object they have chosen from the exhibition.

Teachers' workshop

Teachers who wish to book a class for a workshop are expected to participate in the Teachers' workshop on March 12th, 4pm – 6pm at NMI, Collins Barracks. This workshop will be delivered by Terry McDonagh. At least one teacher from each participating school is expected to attend the Teachers' Workshop.

Learning Outcomes:

- What school was like in 19th century Ireland
- Creation of a piece of writing inspired by objects
- Differences between the objects and books used then and now
- Comparison between the teaching methods (monitor system, merits and punishments) used then and now

Primary Curriculum Links:

SESE: History

Working as a Historian - Local Studies: Schools, Life, Society, Work and Culture in the Past: Life in the 19th century - Continuity and change over time: Schools and education, and Literature, art, crafts and culture

English

Creating and fostering the impulse to write, developing competence, confidence and the ability to write independently, clarifying thought through writing, developing emotional and imaginative life through writing

Arts

Creative Writing, Visual Art, Drama

SPHE

Collaboration, cooperation and teamwork

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How to book:

- **To book a workshop**: **Bookings are made in writing** contact the Bookings Office of the NMI by <u>email</u> or phone on +353 1 6486453 or submit a booking form online.
- Dates and times of all workshops are fixed. Availability of workshops can be discussed with the Bookings Office at the National Museum.
- Bookings are confirmed only on receipt of a Confirmation Form, which must be brought to the Museum on the day of the workshop.
- All classes of 30 who participate in the workshop must be accompanied by two supervising adults.
- At least one teacher from each participating school is expected to attend the Teachers' workshop on 12th March at 4pm.
- Groups who need to cancel their booking will be subjected to a cancellation fee of
 €40.00.
- There is a limited availability of workshops. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

Criteria for schools' participation

Applications are welcomed from all senior Primary groups, with priority given to:

- As wide a range of schools as possible
- Geographic spread of schools, including a mixture of urban based and rural schools
- Inclusion of some school(s) local to the National Museum, Collins Barracks
- Commitment from school to be in attendance at the Teachers' Workshop with Terry McDonagh on 12th March

To book: contact the Bookings Office of the NMI by <a href="mailto:e









About the exhibition:

The Kildare Place Society and Schooling in the 19th Century Exhibition



On display in this exhibition at the National Museum, Collins Barracks are many intriguing objects associated with 19th century education in Ireland. Slates, a cane, an old school desk and bell, needlework samples and an abacus are some of the items, which are on loan from the Church of Ireland College of Education, from where they are usually housed, in the Plunket Museum.

The exhibition tells the story of the innovative practices of the Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in Ireland, known as the Kildare Place Society (KPS).

Founded in Dublin in 1811, before the introduction of the National School System, the KPS's aim was to provide non-denominational and free education for the poor in Ireland. The KPS's pioneering work included the building of schools, teacher training, the publication of an extensive library of reading books and the establishment of an inspectorate to monitor schools. The Society's influence on teaching was significant and many of its innovations influenced the National School system.

Useful Links

- National Museum's website
- CICE's website section on the Plunket Museum
- Poetry Ireland Education

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