

Ruairí Mac Easmainn (1864-1916)

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Rugadh Ruairí Mac Easmainn (1864-1916) i gCuas an Ghainimh, Co. Átha Cliath, an páiste ab óige de cheathrar clainne Aontroma. Cé go bhfuil aitheantas bainte amach aige as ucht a ról san Éirí Amach 1916, tá níos lú eolais ar a shaothar daonchairdiúil ag imscrúdú ainghníomhartha sa trádáil rubair san Afraic agus i Meiriceá Theas.

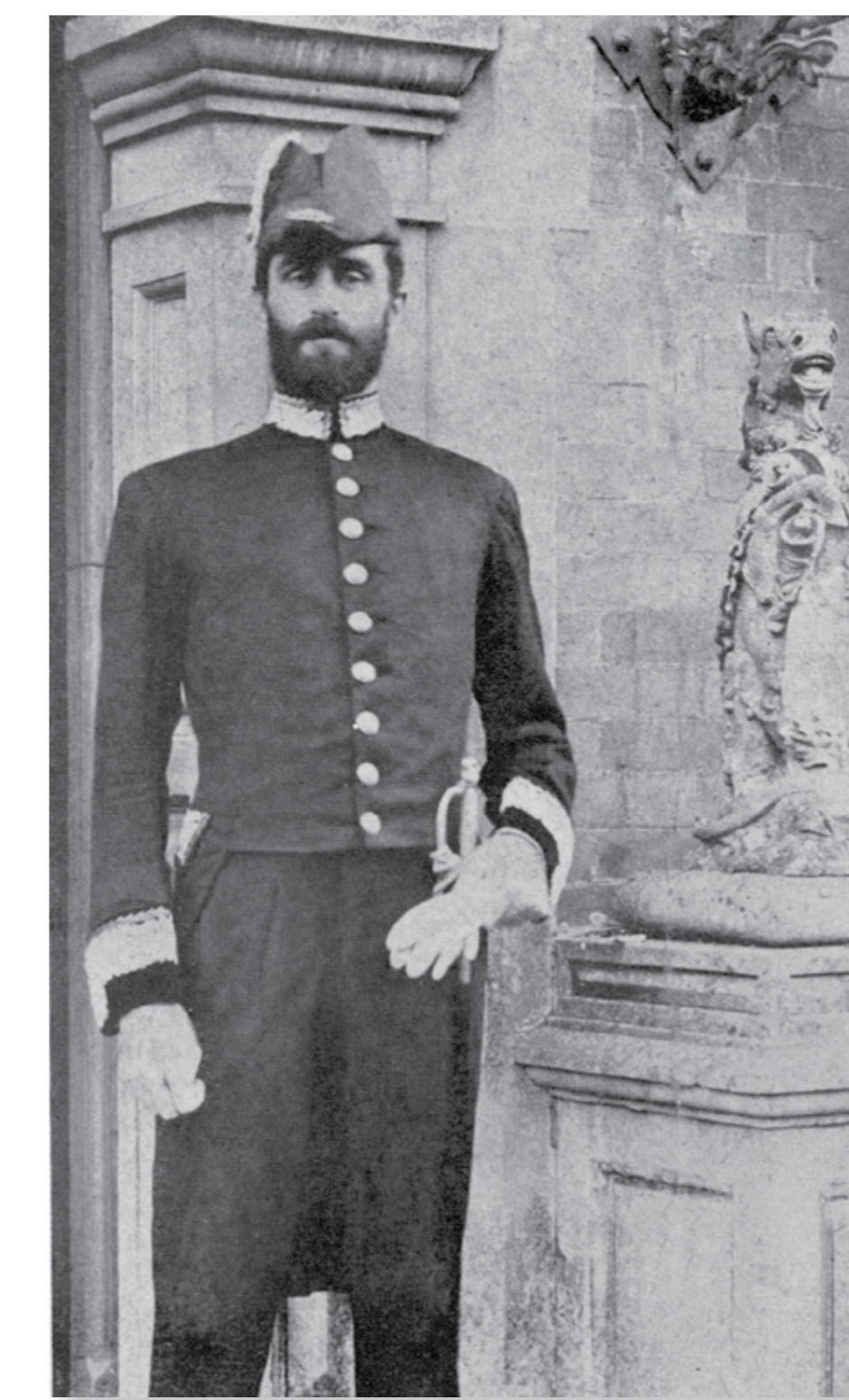
Roger Casement (1864-1916) was born in Sandycove, Co. Dublin, the youngest child of four of an Antrim family. Although recognised for his role in the 1916 Rising, his humanitarian work investigating atrocities in the rubber trade in Africa and South America is less well-known.

Bhí sé ag obair i bpostanna éagsúla san Afraic sara thosaigh sé ar a shlí bheatha taidhleoireachta i 1895. Sa bhliain 1900 ceapadh é mar Chonsal na Breataine go dtí Saorstát an Chongó (Poblacht Dhaonlathach an Chongó anois). Ba é críoch phearsanta Rí Leopold II na Beilge Saorstát an Chongó (SnC). Sa bhliain 1903 tar éis cáineadh a bheith déanta ar thionscal rubair Leopold tugadh ordú do Mhac Easmainn líomhaintí uafáis a imscrúdú. Lean sé ar aghaidh lena shlí bheatha taidhleoireachta mar Ard-Chonsal sa Brasail i 1906. Sa bhliain 1910 roghnaíodh é chun imscrúdú a dhéanamh ar líomhaintí maidir le mí-iompar an Peruvian Amazon Company (PAC) i gceantar Putumayo i bPeiriú (anois sa Cholóim).

He worked in various employments in Africa before starting his diplomatic career in 1895. In 1900 he was appointed British Consul to the Congo Free State (now the Democratic Republic of Congo). The Congo Free State (CFS) was the personal territory of King Leopold II of Belgium. In 1903 criticism of Leopold's rubber industry resulted in Casement being instructed to investigate allegations of atrocities. He continued his diplomatic career as Consul-General in Brazil in 1906. In 1910 he was chosen to investigate allegations of misconduct by the Peruvian Amazon Company (PAC) in the Putumayo region of Peru (now in Colombia).



Ruairí Mac Easmainn i bhfeisteas fairmiúil (iomhá le caoinchead ó Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann)
Roger Casement in formal dress (image courtesy of the National Library of Ireland)



Ruairí Mac Easmainn in éide chonsalach (iomhá ó Roger Casement, a new judgement le René MacColl)
Roger Casement in consular uniform (image from Roger Casement, a new judgement by René MacColl)

Dhírigh a chuid tuarascálacha faoin gCongó agus Putumayo aird an domhain ar na hainghníomhartha. Léiríonn siad a chumas mar bhreathnóir agus imscrúdaitheoir. Sa bhliain 1911 bronnadh ridireacht air mar aitheantas ar a chuid oibre. Diaidh ar ndiaidh cuireadh uafás air mar gheall ar an gcaoi ar chaith an bhunaíocht le pobail dhúchais. De réir a chéile thug sé cosúlachtaí faoi deara idir léirscrios an chultúir dhúchasaigh ag an gcoilíniú agus staid na hÉireann.

His Congo and Putumayo reports brought global attention to the atrocities. They demonstrate his talent as an observer and investigator. In 1911 he was awarded a knighthood in recognition of his work. He grew increasingly appalled with the establishment's treatment of indigenous peoples. Over time he noticed similarities between the destruction of indigenous culture by colonisation and the Irish situation.



Fear ag caitheamh fono (bristéán) le buachall, réigiún Abhann Putumayo (© Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann)
Man wearing a fono (baincloth) with a boy, Putumayo River region (© National Museum of Ireland)



Fear a bhfuil glogar rince timpeall ar a chos dheas, réigiún Abhann Putumayo (© Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann)
Man with a dance rattle around his right leg, Putumayo River region (© National Museum of Ireland)



Grúpa d'fhir óga ó réigiún Abhann Putumayo (iomhá le caoinchead ó Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann)
Group of young men from the Putumayo River region (image courtesy of the National Library of Ireland)