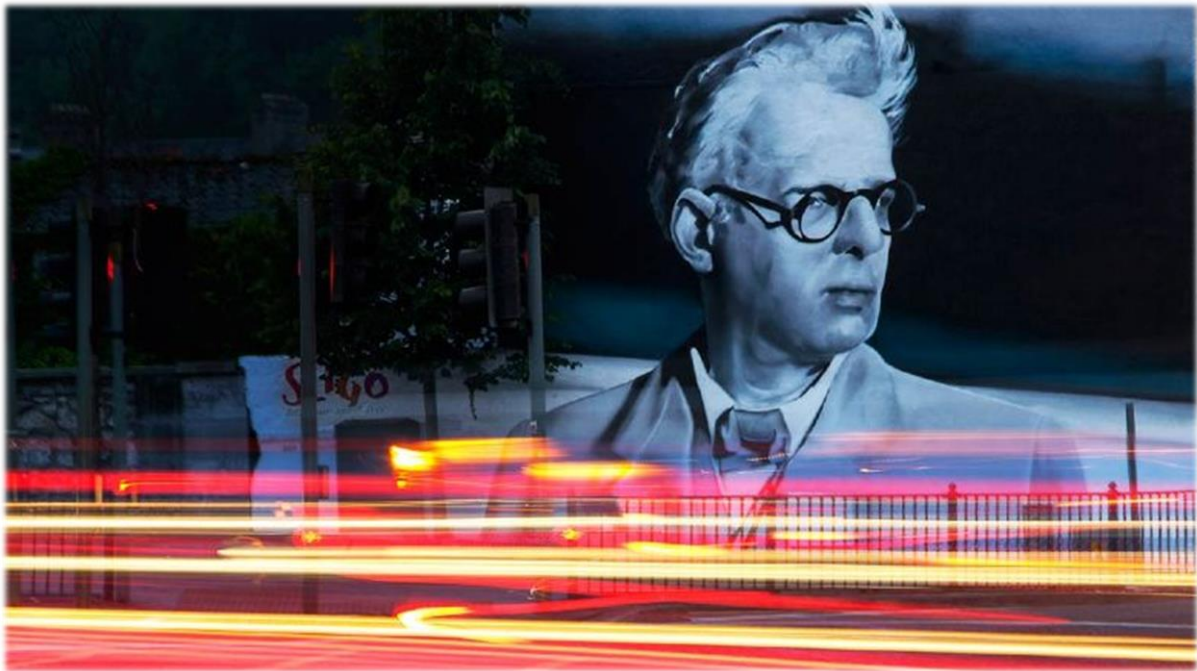


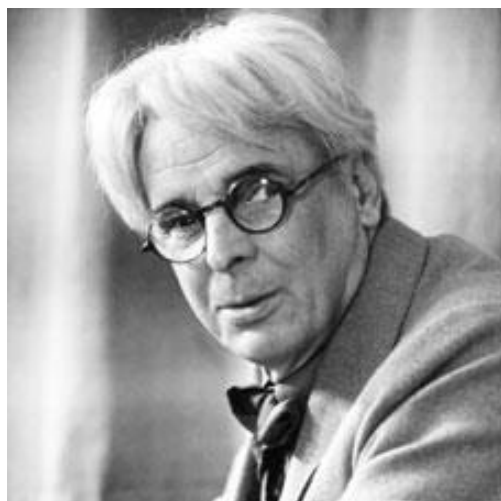
Activities by the
Department of Foreign
Affairs and Trade
in support of
Yeats 2015



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs
and Trade



Introduction



2015 marked the 150th anniversary of the birth of WB Yeats, the Nobel Prize-winning poet.

A Yeats 2015 steering committee oversaw the presentation of an impressive programme of events to celebrate Yeats' life and legacy. While most events took place in Ireland, a great number of events also took place overseas and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade was very pleased to provide its support to the delivery of an engaging programme in a diverse range of locations. The Department, through the Embassy network, worked closely with the Yeats 2015 steering committee and with overseas partners, to organise or support over 100

international events and activities that celebrated the range and depth of Yeats' work and brought Yeats' legacy to the attention of audiences new and old across the globe. Among the events that took place were recitals and musical performances, exhibitions, lectures, international academic conferences and symposia, the publication of new translations of Yeats' poetry, and prominent poetry displays on the London and Shanghai underground transport networks, in each case lasting for a period of many weeks.

The Department's travelling exhibition "The Life and Works of WB Yeats", based on an exhibition curated by the National Library of Ireland, also proved particularly popular throughout 2015, as the 11 separate language versions were exhibited in five continents throughout the year. The programme culminated in December's worldwide recitation of 'The Lake Isle of Innisfree', in which Minister Flanagan also participated.

The programme of events attracted extensive coverage in overseas media over the course of the year, reinforced through interviews with visiting Irish Ministers and local Ambassadors. The initiative found a particular resonance on social media, and we were delighted to hear that the Department's efforts contributed to the success of the overall project team in winning the 2016 Ireland e-Government Award for Social Media on foot of its campaign.

A summary of activities supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is provided in the following pages.

January

19 January

The Ambassador to Great Britain, Daniel Mulhall, was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's leading political programme: World at One. The ambassador described WB Yeats as "an interpreter, an interrogator" of Ireland.

February

February – May

The **Consulate General in Edinburgh** organised a successful tour of Scotland by the Department's Yeats exhibition from February to May 2015. The exhibition, which was launched in February by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charles Flanagan T.D., during a visit to Scotland, was displayed in ten prestigious locations across the country, including universities and community venues, with a footfall of several thousand. Touring the exhibition provided excellent opportunities to develop relationships with new and existing cultural contacts.

1 February

The **Embassy in Ottawa** celebrated Yeats 2015 on Saint Brigid's Day at the Irish Canadian Centre for the Arts in Ottawa. There was a poetry reading and music performance. The Yeats exhibition opened there as well, remaining at the venue for the month of February.

2-4 February

The **Embassy in Rome** supported the VIII Edition of the James Joyce Italian Foundation Conference in Rome which was titled "*Joyce, Yeats, and the Revival*". This three-day international conference hosted in Roma Tre University involved academic contributions, poetry readings and exhibitions of the works of both Joyce and Yeats. As part of this effort, the Embassy also hosted an evening at the Embassy for participants of the conference, the wider Irish Community and key Italian cultural contacts.

March

March – April

A major promotion of Irish poetry – including poetry by Yeats – took place on the London Underground from the beginning of March. Posters of verses from two Yeats poems featured there for 8 weeks. The **Embassy in London** developed a 12-page booklet of Irish poems called



VERSES FROM YEATS POEMS IN LONDON UNDERGROUND.

Poems on the Underground, and 130,000 copies were funded and printed by Transport for London and distributed to commuters and visitors at stations throughout the London Underground network.

March - October

In association with the **Embassy in Rome**, and as part of Ireland's participation at EXPO Milan, a series of cultural events was organised, including an exhibition of the poetry of Yeats. Over 20 million people visited the Milan EXPO site during this period

9 – 24 March

The **Embassy in Ottawa** organised a second Yeats event connected with St. Patrick's Day celebrations at the Irish Cultural Centre in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, where Dr. Brendan O'Grady gave a lecture on the Life and Poetry of W.B. Yeats on 19 March. The exhibition was also viewed by attendees at the society's St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Céilí.

16 March

The **Embassy in Moscow** incorporated the Yeats celebration into Irish Week which took place between 11 and 22 March in Moscow. The Embassy invited Yeats scholar Charles Armstrong to give a lecture at the State Library for Foreign Literature. He was joined by Grigory Kruzhkov, the noted Russian translator of many of Ireland's great poets and visiting Minister of State Kathleen Lynch T.D. The event culminated in a short concert celebrating traditional Irish music from the time of Yeats. The event in the beautiful surroundings of the Oval Hall of the State Library for Foreign Literature was full to capacity.

16-28 March

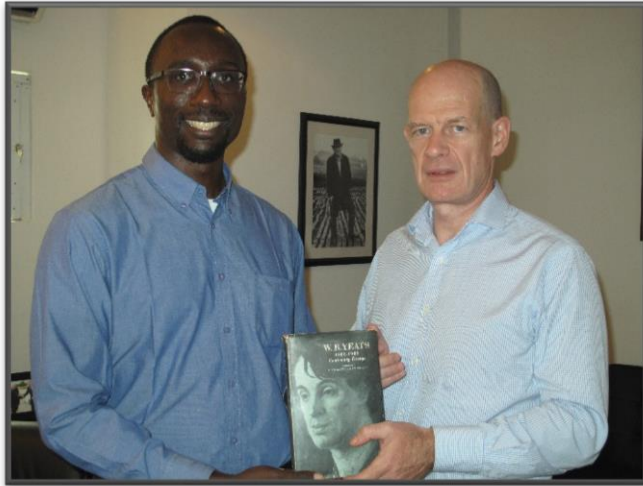
The **Embassy in Beijing** supported an exhibition in the 798 arts district which was inspired by 'Sailing to Byzantium', and a second exhibition in the Dongyue Temple Gallery based on 'A Meditation in a Time of War'. The Embassy also hosted a lecture evening where artists in the group and the noted Chinese Yeats scholar and translator Professor Fu Hao shared their views on the links between poetry and painting, and the inspiration that Yeats provided to the exhibitions.

The exhibitions received considerable media coverage, and a piece carried by the English-language news station CCTV included an interview with the visiting Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government, Alan Kelly T.D.

17 March

The **Embassy in New Delhi** supported the visit of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, James Reilly, T.D. who unveiled a bust of Yeats (right) which was generously donated by the Bulbulia Bequest to commemorate the close relationship between WB Yeats and the great Indian poet, playwright, and fellow Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore.





NIGERIAN POET Dike Chukwumerijie and Ambassador Seán Hoy.

The **Embassy in Abuja** invited Nigerian poet Dike Chukwumerijie (left) to perform a poem by Christopher Okigbo. It was published in Nigeria in 1965 to mark the centenary of the birth of WB Yeats.

The **Embassy in Brasilia** and the **Consulate General in São Paulo** supported a conference organised by the WB Yeats Chair of Irish Studies at the University of Sao Paulo, which was opened by the Minister for Education, Jan O'Sullivan T.D.

The **Permanent Mission to the OSCE in Vienna** hosted a harp concert and poetry reading as part of the Mission's St. Patrick's Day celebrations, involving key contacts from the OSCE Secretariat and delegations.

21 – 28 March

The **Consulate General in Shanghai** supported Small World, an exhibition of Chinese and Irish contemporary art inspired by the romantic poetry of Yeats. It was displayed at M50 Shanghai's Sanwei Art Center as a part of the wider contemporary art project in China for St. Patrick's Day. Fion Gunn, Brendan Jamison and Mark Revels, representatives of the Irish artists taking part in Small World, gave talks about the exhibition.

23 March

The **Ambassador to Great Britain** participated in the Oxford Literary Festival, speaking on the life and writings of W.B. Yeats.

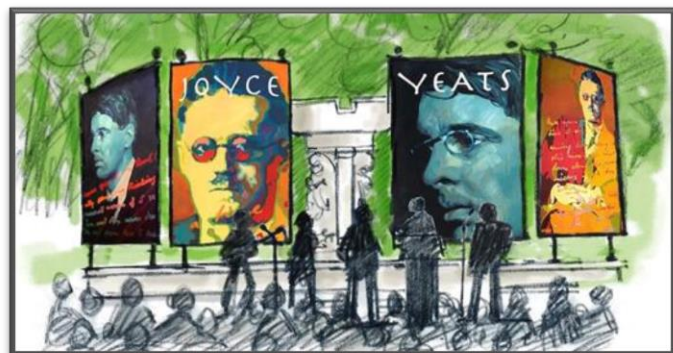
April

April

The **Embassy in Washington** organised a competition to design artwork for use by the Embassy in its Bloomsday – Yeats Day events. The winner (right) was Barrie Maguire whose works were later used on the Embassy's website and social media pages.

12 April

The **Ambassador to Great Britain** took part in an interview with Cerys Matthews on BBC Radio 6 to mark the 150th



THE WINNING ARTWORK IN THE EMBASSY'S IN WASHINGTON COMPETITION.

anniversary of WB Yeats. Ambassador Mulhall shared his love for Yeats' poetry and explained why Yeats is considered to be one of the great poets. The Ambassador joined Cerys Matthews in reciting some of Yeats' poems and gave listeners a flavour of the Yeats2015 commemorative events.

14 – 16 April

The **Embassy in London** launched the paperback edition of *Poems on the Underground* during an evening event for the cultural, media and business communities. Many young poets presented their literary works inspired by WB Yeats. The event took place during the London Book Fair in April.

29 – 30 April

The Hungarian Yeats Society, supported by the **Embassy in Budapest**, held a two-day conference in the Petőfi Museum of Literature, Budapest. The first day featured scholarly papers on Yeats's work,



'AT THE HAWK'S WELL' - BUDAPEST

with the plenary lecture given by Margaret Mills Harper, Glucksman Distinguished Professor at Limerick University. The programme ended with a live performance of Edmund Dulac's original music composed for *At the Hawk's Well*, featuring the well-known tenor, Tivatar Kiss (right). The second day was devoted to Hungarian translations of Yeats' poetry, drama and essays. The programme included the launch of a special Yeats issue of the Hungarian literary journal, *Napút*, which included poems, plays and essays, readings in both English and Hungarian of new translations of several Yeats poems, the awarding of books

to the best translators and a round-table discussion of some special challenges and difficulties in finding Yeats's voice in Hungarian. The finale was the premiere of *At the Hawk's Well* in Hungarian with its own original music composed specially for this production.

23 April – 30 June

The **Embassy in Singapore** partnered with LASALLE College of the Arts to showcase the "Life and Works of Yeats" exhibition. The event launch on 23 April brought together 40 academics, practitioners and Embassy cultural contacts. LASALLE students and faculty members read excerpts from Yeats' poems and plays and President Steve Dixon recited *The Song of Wandering Aengus*.

May

May

The **Ambassador to Great Britain** spoke at a number of Yeats events during May, including events organised by the University of Liverpool, the Newbury Spring Festival, the Luton Irish

**Ambassador to London Dan Mulhall
tweeted a daily #YeatsQuote.**

Forum, and Tourism Ireland, as well as the annual Conference of the International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures in York, the Edinburgh International Book Festival, the London Irish Centre and the annual dinner of the Irish Literary Society.

2 – 4 May

The **Consulate General in Hong Kong** organised a number of screenings of “A Terrible Beauty” in Hong Kong. The evening screening on 2 May targeted people with an interest in history and culture and other screenings took place in schools and in colleges. Every event included a Q&A session with Keith Farrell, the director of the film. Approximately 500 people attended these events.

11 May

The **Consulate General in Boston** hosted a lunchtime event for professors, cultural activists and community leaders who read their favourite Yeats poem. It was accompanied by music and song. During the event, the Department’s Yeats exhibition was displayed for public viewing.

15 May

The **Ambassador to Great Britain** delivered a lecture entitled “The Brothers Yeats: Irish Cultural Icons”, as part of the Embassy’s programme for Yeats2015 to mark the official opening of ‘Art of a Nation: Irish Works from the AIB and Crawford Art Gallery Collection’ at the Mall Galleries, London.

22 May

As a part of the local Council’s ‘Edinburgh Reads’ series, an event to celebrate Yeats 2015 took place in the prestigious Reference Room at the Central Library, which was supported by the **Consulate General in Edinburgh**. The **Ambassador to Great Britain** delivered a lecture on WB Yeats. It was attended by close to 200 people.

26 May

The **Embassy in Sofia** organised three presentations by Dermot Meleady at Sofia University, including one on Yeats.

June

June – November

The **Embassy in Beijing** cooperated closely with *A Poem for You*, a Chinese non-profit initiative for the promotion of poetry in China. *A Poem for You* releases a poetry recording nightly at 10 pm and boasts 2 million followers on Wechat, China’s most popular social media platform. In June, A Poem for You released recordings of *A Prayer for My Daughter* read by President Michael D. Higgins, a recording in English of *When You Are Old* read by the Ambassador to China, John Paul Kavanagh, and a recording in Chinese of *When You Are Old* read by Baidu founder, Robin Li.



CONCERT IN TIANQIAO PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE, BEIJING

On 22 November, the **Embassy in Beijing** and *A Poem for You* jointly organised a poetry concert entitled *When You Are Old* which was held at the brand new Tianqiao Performing Arts Centre in Beijing (left). 1,000 people attended the concert and 50,000 people viewed coverage online. The spectacle included footage of Yeats receiving the Nobel Prize for Literature in Sweden, an audio recording of Yeats reading *The Lake Isle of Innisfree*, and readings in Chinese of *The Lake Isle of Innisfree*, *The Wild Swans at Coole* and

Sailing to Byzantium. Chinese violinist Lü Siqing performed a number of solo pieces inspired by Yeats. The final performance was an updated version of the musical performance of *When You are Old*.

Working with the Embassy, *A Poem for You* also recorded and broadcast a reading of *The Sally Gardens* by Paddy Moloney, which was accessed by over 100,000 viewers in 48 hours.

1 June

On 1 June, the **Embassy in Stockholm** organised a lecture at Uppsala University by Dr Barry Sheils of UCD on 'Yeats, the monoglot translator'. The lecture focused on Yeats' relationship with Rabindranath Tagore, which coincided with the Indian State visit to Sweden, and included a visit to Uppsala University by President Mukherjee.

2 – 15 June

The **Embassy in Madrid** presented a two-week long exhibition entitled "Of this Place" at the centrally located and prestigious Ateneo de Madrid (right). It was accompanied by readings, music and recitals taking place both in the venue and in the Quinta de Mahler (a nearby music space). The celebration proved to be a major success, with over 1,000 attendees.



MADRID CELEBRATES YEATS

2 June

On 2 June, the **Ambassador to Bulgaria** attended the launch of the Bulgarian translation of two of Yeats' early prose works, *John Sherman* and *Dhoya* by the Bulgarian publishing house Perseus PH. The translation is part of a series by Perseus, supported by the EU programme Creative Europe.

8 – 29 June

The Yeats exhibition was displayed at the Westmount Public Library, **Montreal**, from 8-29 June as part of the Bloomsday celebrations, where it was enjoyed by hundreds of visitors each day.

10 – 17 June

The **Embassy in Tokyo** expanded their annual festival – ‘Yeats Day in Japan’ – to a three day event (right), focused mainly on Theatre and Yeats’ Noh Plays. An Irish theatre group, *Guthanna Binne Síoraí/ Everlasting Voices*, performed extracts from Yeats’ works and a Tokyo-based troupe performed *Deirdre* for the first time in Japanese. Yeats’ poems were recited in Irish, English and Japanese Noh-style. An Irish composer based in Tokyo created a

A Yeats poem was performed in Noh chant-style during Yeats 2015 in Tokyo.

new work for a visiting dancer from Ireland, Megan Kennedy, based on a Yeats poem. On the final day of the festival, the Japan Ireland Society (JIS) held a symposium on “Japan and Yeats”. Attendance was an estimated 550. *Nikkei* and other Japanese daily newspapers covered the festival.

The Department’s travelling exhibition on Yeats was available in Japanese and featured at all anniversary events in 2015. To date, the exhibition has toured 12 universities and 7,000 copies of the accompanying booklet in Japanese have been distributed.



YEATS DAY POSTER, JAPAN.

11 June

The **Embassy in Athens** organised an event at the highly prestigious Museum of Cycladic Art, one of Greece’s leading cultural institutions. The event was in three parts: a lecture by Emeritus Professor of English Literature in NUI Galway, Kevin Barry, the poetry of Yeats read in English and in Greek by celebrated Greek poets Katerina Anghelaki-Rooke and Yiorgos Chouliaras, and a reception featuring Irish songs inspired by Yeats, including several of his poems set to music.

The **Embassy in Bratislava** organised an evening of poetry and music by Tale of the Gael. The story of Yeats was told throughout the performance and kept the audience enthralled.

The **Consulate General in Sydney** supported an event at the University of New South Wales entitled "Why Yeats Matters", chaired by Professor Ronan McDonald. The Yeats exhibition also made its first appearance in Australia at this event. Approximately 140 people were in attendance.

12 – 15 June

The **Embassy in Sofia** supported a visit to Bulgaria by Irish writer Jack Harte, involving the delivery of two lectures and a talk at an Embassy-sponsored University Literary Conference. The first talk dealt with the influence of Co. Sligo on the poetry of Yeats and Mr. Harte was also the keynote speaker at a literary conference at Sofia University

Most events took place in June, in view of W.B. Yeats’ birthday on 13 June. Many Embassies combined events with Bloomsday celebrations.

entitled “Ireland and Europe, Cultural and literary encounters.”

12 – 13 June

The **Embassy in Vienna** supported the display of the Department’s Yeats exhibition (translated into German) at two concerts by the group Tale of the Gael, the first at the University of Vienna, coinciding with the 650th anniversary of the foundation of the University, and the second in Graz.

13 June



EMORY UNIVERSITY IN ATLANTA PACKED TO CAPACITY DURING YEATS EVENT.

The **Consulate General in Atlanta** organised an event at Emory University in Atlanta (left) which is home to one of the largest collections of Yeats papers and archives anywhere outside Ireland. The evening was full of attractions: poetry readings and discussions, academic speeches, music, theatre and photography exhibition. Local media also showed great interest: the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Atlanta Business Chronicle and Global Atlanta all devoted column inches to the event and WABE (the local NPR franchise) ran an extended interview with two participants in the programme in the week preceding the birthday.

The **Embassy in Canberra** supported an event which took place at The State Library of Victoria in Melbourne and was run by the Yeats Society. It was an enjoyable day of lectures, discussion and poetry readings, culminating in a display on the life of W B Yeats. Prizes were also presented to the winners of the 2014 WB Yeats Poetry Prize for Australia, a competition organised annually by the Yeats Society.

The **Consul General in Chicago** and his wife hosted a “Yeats at Home” event on 13 July. The evening comprised readings, song and music, by or associated with Yeats, performed by the local amateur theatre, the Consul-General and his wife.

The **Consulate General in Sydney** supported an afternoon of poetry and song in the State Library of New South Wales. Claire Dunne, Irish-born actress, author, and broadcaster, led the audience through the life of WB Yeats with a carefully chosen selection of poems and live musical accompaniment. The event was attended by 135 people.

The **Embassy in Seoul** organised a series of lectures at Dongguk University. Among the lecturers were Prof Youngmin Kim (Dongguk University), Prof Claire Connolly (UCC) and Prof Adrian Paterson (NUIG). Korean students were

very keen to interact during lectures. They were also involved in the organisational process by Professor Kim. The Yeats travelling exhibition was also on display at the university. Evening festivities took place in the same venue and consisted of Irish traditional music sessions with impromptu dancing, and readings of Yeats and Joyce from Korean, Irish and European performers.

Students from Seoul prepared a "Yeatsbook page" detailing his life and times.

The **Ambassador to Great Britain** spoke on BBC radio 4's Today programme to mark the occasion of Yeats day, the 150th anniversary of the poet's birth.

15 June

The Lord Speaker of the House of Lords, Baroness D'Souza, and the **Ambassador to Great Britain** co-hosted a poetry reading and reception at the House of Lords to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Yeats. The evening included readings by Irish actors and by the Ambassador.

16 June

The **Embassy in Warsaw** gathered senior publishers and highly respected translators for a moderated discussion on increasing the translation of contemporary and classic Irish literature into Polish over a traditional Bloomsday breakfast. That evening, the Embassy organised a poetry reading event at the Museum of Literature in Warsaw. The Ambassador to Poland read a selection of poems by Yeats in English, with leading Polish literary figure, Antoni Libera. Pieces of O'Carolan's music performed on the harp accompanied the event.



YEATS – BLOOMSDAY BREAKFAST IN LONDON

The **Embassy in London** hosted a Bloomsday/Yeatsday breakfast at the Embassy (above) with songs & readings from Joyce & Yeats, by actors and performers including Dermot O'Leary, Cerys Matthews, Tamsin Grieg, Lisa Dwan and Aisling Bea. It was one of the Embassy's best attended early morning events.



IRISH LITERATURE NIGHT IN NICOSIA.

The **Embassy in Nicosia** organised an event at Soloneion Book Centre in Nicosia. The Ambassador gave a presentation interspersed with music and song by a local Irish harpist and readings of several poems by an actress with Irish connections. The event was very successful, with some 100 in attendance in a room without seating facilities.

The **Embassy in Washington** hosted a free event that was open to the public, featuring readings from both Joyce and Yeats' work, and music and songs associated with both writers at Dupont Circle (below), an urban park close to the Embassy in a busy business area which attracts many lunchtime picnickers. The Embassy partnered with the annual Bloomsday Vintage Bike Rally whose participants attended in period costume. Readings were given by highly knowledgeable locally-based Irish



YEATS EVENT ON DUPONT CIRCLE, WASHINGTON.

academics and the music was provided by Fran O'Rourke and John Feeley. The Washington Post included pictures of the event in their print addition on 17 June. That evening, the Embassy hosted an event for some 200 guests, including key political and economic contacts at the Cosmos Club. The evening featured readings from Joyce and Yeats' work, the world premiere of a play written especially for the occasion by Joe Hassett and music and songs associated with both

writers, as well as some rousing traditional Irish music. The Ambassador hosted a reception after the event.

The **Embassy in Berlin** hosted a Bloomsday and Yeats day celebration at the Embassy. The event featured music based on the works of Joyce and Yeats composed specially for the occasion by Nina Hynes and Shaun Mulrooney. Dr Sabine Mueller, a lecturer at the University of Leipzig who holds a PhD from NUIG gave a fascinating lecture on the connections between Joyce and Yeats. Hans-Christian Oeser, one of Germany's most eminent translators of Irish literature read his new translation of Yeats' *He wishes for the cloths of heaven*.

18 – 25 June

The **Embassy in Bucharest** organised an open exhibition on the life and works of Yeats in the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures of the University of Bucharest from 18 June to 21 June, and in Ovidius University, Constanța, from 23 June to 25 June. The exhibition in Bucharest was attended by MA students of Irish literature, academics of the faculty, including Prof Lidia Vianu, Professor of English, who arranged for the publication of Yeats's biographical work *The Trembling of the Veil* in the online academic publishing house *Contemporary Literature Press* to coincide with the anniversary. The event in Ovidius University in Constanța was attended by the Rector of the University, the deans of the English Department and the Faculty of Letters, along with over fifty students. Several hundred members of the public are estimated to have visited the exhibition over the 4 days.

19 – 20 June

The **Embassy in The Hague** organised a successful symposium for the Dutch academic community, which included a round table discussion on the challenges of translating Yeats into Dutch. After the conclusion of the symposium on 21 June, the Utrecht Poetry Guild held an event to publish a book of poems by Yeats and response poems by members of the Guild. Chair of the Yeats 2015 Steering Committee, Sentaor Susan O'Keeffe, was amongst the symposium's speakers, presenting a paper entitled "'Reconnecting Yeats in the Twenty-First Century'. The Yeats poems and those by the Dutch writers were subsequently published together in the same volume.

July

As part of the 19th Edition of the Trieste James Joyce School, the **Embassy in Rome** supported a focus on the work of Yeats and its relationship with the work of James Joyce. In addition, there was an evening with Irish Tenor, Noel O'Grady, celebrating "Songs in the works of James Joyce and W. B. Yeats"

July – September

The **Embassy in Buenos Aires** presented the Yeats travelling exhibition at the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba (where it followed the annual Argentine Conference on Irish Studies), and the Universidad Nacional de La Pampa.

30 July

The **Ambassador to Great Britain** spoke at a 'celebrating Yeats' event at the Luton Irish Forum on Yeats's achievement, including as a witness to Irish history. The event attracted an attendance of about 100, drawn from the Irish community in the area and local people with an interest in Ireland and our literature.

30 July

The **Ambassador to Australia** hosted an event for key stakeholders from cultural institutions in Canberra. Professor Ronan McDonald delivered a talk on Yeats and author Thomas Keneally read some of Yeats' work.

August

In conjunction with the Brockville Irish Society, the Brockville Museum in **Ontario** celebrated a month of Yeats in August 2015 with the Yeats exhibition on prominent display. Two main events were organised – an opening event and a celebration of Yeats on 18 August with readings and music. 50 people attended each event.

August - September

The **Consulate General in Chicago**, in partnership with the Chicago-based Digital Youth Network, ran a competition for young people entitled Yeats Remix, which invited participants in the Chicago area to submit their own recordings of their favourite Yeats writings.

2 August

The **Embassy in Canberra** supported an event organised by The Friends of Ireland and the Friends of the National Library of Australia. Lectures and music performances were compered by Professor Ronan McDonald from the Global Irish Studies Centre at the University of New South Wales. The Yeats travelling exhibition was displayed in the foyer and Yeats poetry booklets were distributed to all attendees. Turnout for the event exceeded expectations, with 200 tickets being sold.

15 August

The **Consulate General in Edinburgh** hosted an evening reception to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Yeats, alongside the Year of Irish Design 2015. It was attended by Ambassador Dan

Mulhall, who spoke about the life and legacy of poet Yeats. Robyn Marsack, Director of the Scottish Poetry Library, launched a new Yeats teaching resource developed jointly by the Library and the Consulate which will be available for use by secondary schools across Scotland.

September

1-5 September

The inaugural Embassies Festival was held in **Bucharest** from 1-5 September and, as part of the cultural content of the event, the National Library of Romania hosted exhibitions from several countries for the duration of the festival. The Embassy arranged for the display of the Yeats travelling exhibition and the various exhibits were viewed by several thousand visitors to the library over the five days of the Festival.

9 September

The **Ambassador to the Republic of Korea** participated in the second international conference celebrating Yeats 150 hosted by the Yeats Society of Korea. The two-day conference was attended by Korean and international academics. There was good attendance by Korean University students, which provided a welcome opportunity to bring Yeats and Irish culture to a younger generation of Koreans.

16 September

The **Embassy in Berlin** hosted a reading of the first German translation of Yeats' "A Vision" by translator Axel Monte. The translation was supported by Ireland Literature Exchange. Around 60 people attended, including representatives of the book's publisher, Kröner Verlag and one of Germany's most eminent translators of Beckett, Erika Tophoven. The Embassy also displayed the travelling Yeats' exhibition on this occasion and the background information it provided was appreciated by the predominantly German audience.

19 September

The **Ambassador to Great Britain** gave a 30-minute talk about Yeats and Joyce, illustrated with readings, at the York Irish Culture Night organised by the York Irish Association.

25 – 27 September

Irish musicians, Tale of the Gael, performed in **Zurich** on 25 September and in **Lausanne** on 27 September with the support of the **Embassy in Berne**. The performance featured Irish music inspired by the work of Yeats and recitals of his poetry and prose.

28 September

The **Embassy in Valetta** organised a half-day conference and reception entitled 'W.B Yeats – The Last Romantic' at the University of Malta. It was followed by a short reception at The Fortress Builder's Fortification Centre, where the Yeats exhibition was displayed. The highlight of the event was the translation and reading of Yeats' poetry in Maltese, the first time this had ever been done. The Maltese versions of the poems were read by current students of the University of Malta English department.

30 September

The **Consulate General in Edinburgh** hosted the World Premiere of Fifth Province's *Yeats by Lightning*, in partnership with AIB GB (right). *Yeats by Lightning* is a celebration of both the life and work of W.B. Yeats and crosses the boundaries between literature, storytelling, music and theatre to bring his poetry to life. It was warmly received by its first audience, which comprised prominent members of the business and cultural spheres.



YEATS BY LIGHTNING, EDINBURGH.

October

October – November

Ms. Heather Humphreys T.D., Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, visited the *Yeats* exhibition in the Saint John Public Library during her visit to the Maritimes in October 2015. The exhibition was also displayed in Fredericton Provincial Archives, in the Miramichi, and in St. Thomas University where Dr. Stewart Donovan delivered a lecture on *Yeats* on 19 November. The **Embassy in Ottawa** worked with the Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick on these exhibitions.

1 October

The **Consulate General in New York** partnered with Origin Theatre Company and the Abbey Theatre on a new playwriting competition in 2015 intended to inspire young writers in the US to engage with the life and work of W.B. Yeats. Entrants submitted ideas for a short play inspired by the work of Yeats, which were judged by Origin and the Abbey. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charles



George Heslin, Artistic Director, Origin Theatre; Minister Flanagan; Yeats150 emerging playwright competition winner, Thomas Burns Scully; Barbara Jones, Consul General of Ireland (COURTESY OF JAMES HIGGINS)

Flanagan T.D. presented the 2015 Yeats150 Award to Mr. Thomas Burns Scully (above). Thomas is a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, whose writing has been produced on three continents. Staged readings of his winning play will be held in New York and in Dublin, at the Abbey Theatre in 2016.

3 – 4 October

The theme of the 32nd International Conference of the Japan branch of the International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures held in Hiroshima was "Commemorations: Marking Time in Ireland". The **Ambassador to Japan**, Anne Barrington, opened the conference referencing 1916, 1945 and Ireland's role in the NPT, Yeats and Patrick Lafcadio Hearn. The guest speakers from Ireland were Prof Patrick Crotty, University of Aberdeen, and the poet Ms Moya Cannon. Approximately 50 academics from all over Japan attended the conference.

5 – 9 October

On 5 October, the Department of English at the **University of Lausanne**, with the support of the **Embassy in Berne**, organised an afternoon of lectures and workshops for academic staff and students on Yeats' poetry, life and interests. From 5 October to 9 October, the University also hosted the exhibition on the life and work of W.B. Yeats. Approximately 50 students participated in the workshops and attended the lectures, with academics attending from the universities in Lausanne, Zurich and Geneva.

8 October

The **Embassy in London** hosted the second annual Yeats lecture in cooperation with the Irish Literary Society. Professor John Kelly, Emeritus Research Fellow in English at St John's College Oxford, delivered a lecture entitled: 'Alchemist and Diviner: Yeats and Heaney as National Poets'. The event, which is part of the Embassy's Yeats 150 programme, was attended by approximately 90 guests drawn from business, cultural and community networks.

The **Embassy in Beijing** held a dinner for prominent Chinese business figures. Among the other guests were people working in philanthropy, the arts and entertainment, and entrepreneurs from the fields of fashion design, real estate and technology. Ambassador Kavanagh and the founder of *A Poem for You*, Jack Pan, both read poems in English and Chinese to mark the occasion.

10 October

The **Embassy in Tokyo** organised a talk by Professor Patrick Crotty to mark Yeats 2015. It took place at the large multi-purpose venue on Campus of the Waseda University. Traditional music and drinks followed the main talk, which was attended by approximately 145 people. The Department's Yeats exhibition was on display at the event and literature in Japanese on Yeats' life and work was available to take home.

The Embassy in Tokyo has been organising a number of Yeats-related events which has resulted in a mailing list of 175 members.

15 October

The **Embassy in Tallinn** hosted a reception on 15 October to mark the publication of a new translation into Finnish of some of Yeats' poetry. The collection entitled *Torni ja kierreportaat*, or *The Tower and the Winding Stair*, after two of the original volumes, is the work of Jyrki Vainonen, who has previously

translated Séamus Heaney, Paul Muldoon and Jonathan Swift into Finnish. At the reception, Jyrki Vainonen and Frank Boyle, an Irish actor and long-time resident of Helsinki, read a number of the poems alternately in Finnish and English.

17 October

A brand new play based on the life of WB Yeats premiered in Tokyo at Theatre X (right), with the support of the **Embassy in Tokyo**. Written by a respected director of Noh, it attracted a new audience to theatre in Japanese on an Irish topic. Mr. Kasai became familiar with Yeats through attendance at Embassy Yeats Day events. The play was enjoyed by an audience of approximately 300 people over two performances.



YEATS AND MAUD GONNE - TOKYO

19 – 22 October

The **Embassy in Nicosia** supported two events commemorating WB Yeats. The first was held on 19 October at the University of Cyprus Cultural Centre, as part of their bi-annual Cultural Festival. This featured a lecture, in Greek by Professor Dionysis at the invitation of the Festival Director, Professor Michalis Pierides. The lecture was followed by readings in Greek and English of several Yeats poems. The second event took place on 22 October at Soloneion Book Centre and was an illustrated lecture in English by Professor Kevin Barry, whose participation was supported by the **Embassy in Nicosia**.

19 October

The **Ambassador to Great Britain** launched an exhibition – ‘A trembling veil’ - at the Belgravia Gallery of works by three Sligo-based artists loosely inspired by Yeats’s works. The Ambassador spoke about Yeats’ value as an interpreter of the Ireland of 100 years ago and recited *The Lake Isle of Innisfree*, a poem that reflects both Yeats’s life in London where it was written and the lasting inspiration provided by his spiritual home in Sligo.

20 October

The **Ambassador to Great Britain** opened an exhibition of Irish and Chinese art, entitled ‘Sailing to Byzantium’, inspired by the poem of WB Yeats, at the Leyden Gallery in Spitalfields, London. It was a Yeats-focused offshoot from the IRISH WAVE exhibitions which took place previously in Beijing and Shanghai.

21 October

The **Embassy in London** hosted the launch of the Abbey Theatre’s ‘Handbook of the Irish Revival’. It brings together in one volume a set of writings that reflects the cultural debate in the period leading up to the 1916 Rising.



LONDON ARTIST YING YANGSHENG WITH AMBASSADOR MULHALL AT “SAILING TO BYZANTIUM” EXHIBITION IN LONDON.

23 October

During a visit to China, **Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O’Sullivan T.D.** addressed some 50 Masters-level students of Irish Studies at the Beijing Foreign Studies University. She spoke of how Yeats’ writing had raised awareness of Ireland among Chinese students who have widely read his work in school. She recited excerpts of *Lapis Lazuli* and presented a number of works by Yeats to the university library to mark the Yeats2015 commemorations.

28 October

The **Embassy in London** hosted the launch of the *Windharp Poetry Anthology*, edited by Niall MacMonagle. The anthology features poems of Ireland since 1916. A number of the poets included in the anthology read their work on the evening.

31 October – 18 December

85,000 passengers in Shanghai were introduced to Yeats’ poetry on the metro every day.

A Yeats 2015 exhibition was displayed on the Metro in **Shanghai** (right). Entitled “Dance Like a Wave of the Sea / 舞动波涛” - a line from *The Fiddler at Dooney* - it features quotes in Chinese and English from six of Yeats’ best known poems in China, along with information on his life and work. QR codes link to the new Chinese-language website of the **Consulate General in Shanghai** and to Tourism Ireland’s Yeats 2015 webpage in Chinese.



YEATS DISPLAY IN SHANGHAI METRO.

November

6 November

The **Embassy in Tallinn** used the opportunity of the 25th anniversary of the publication of a collection of Yeats poems in Estonian in 1990 to host a poetry evening with musical interludes. Guest of honour was the original translator, who read Yeats’ poems in Estonian.

10 November

The **Ambassador to Great Britain** gave a lecture on ‘WB Yeats and the Ireland of his time’ at the **Leeds Irish Centre** describing why Yeats should be considered as Ireland’s Shakespeare and our national poet. The Ambassador also made reference to Yeats’ visit to Leeds in the early 20th century.

11 November

The **Embassy in Prague**, together with the Centre for Irish Studies at Charles University, organised a poetry reading celebrating Yeats, which featured new Czech translations introduced by Yeats’

biographer Prof. R.F. Foster. Ambassador Charles Sheehan opened the event for the 60 guests in attendance, and his remarks were followed by Ondřej Pilný, head of the Centre for Irish Studies at Charles University. Irish writers and poets based in the Czech Republic, as well as the Czech translators of Yeats' poems, recited the poems in English and Czech.

18 November

The **Ambassador to Great Britain** participated in the opening night of the fifth annual Irish Film Festival London, the organisation of which received funding from the Department's Emigrant Support Programme. The documentary, 'WB Yeats: No Country for Old Men' was shown in Regent Street Cinema, Britain's first ever cinema. The screening was accompanied by shorts from the US-Ireland Alliance project "Teaching High School Students About Irish poet W.B. Yeats", which features readings from Sarah Bolger, Elaine Cassidy, Dermot Crowley, Adrian Dunbar, and Dearbhla Molloy.

The screening was followed by a 30-minute on-stage conversation between the Ambassador and Director, Maurice Sweeney, in which they discussed the evolution of Yeats' poetry from the early years of romantic poems, characterised by the Lake Isle of Innisfree, to the political poems of his later years. Maurice Sweeney touched on Yeats' role in the Ireland of his time with reference to the often overlooked liberalism of early twentieth century Ireland.

20 November

A Yeats 150 Symposium, entitled "The Reform of the Theatre: Yeats, Craig, Hevesi, Stanislavski" was held at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Budapest, organised by Dr. Eglantina Rempert and supported by the **Embassy in Budapest**. Dr. Mónika Mesterházi, editor and translator, gave a short speech on the Yeats re-translation project which is updating the earlier translations of Yeats, for publication in 2016. Professor Anthony Roche of the Department of English, Drama and Film, University College Dublin, gave the keynote address, "Theatre Revolutionaries: W. B. Yeats and Anton Chekhov." This was followed by further lectures on theatre reform which referenced all four playwrights.

23 November

With the support of the **Embassy in London**, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charles Flanagan T.D., attended a Yeats Symposium held by Magdalene College Cambridge as part of the Yeats 2015 commemorations, involving a series of talks, readings and discussions. The event concluded with the performance of two of Yeats' plays: *On Baile's Stand* and *The Death of Cuchulain*.

24 November

The **Embassy in London** hosted the launch of *Ceol agus Soul*, a CD of poetry and song, by Older Irish People in Britain in collaboration with the Irish Elderly Advice Network. The Ambassador made a guest appearance on the CD, reciting the poetry of WB Yeats.

26 November

The **Embassy in London** hosted the 'Josephine Hart Poetry Hour' featuring the poetry of WB Yeats. Over thirty poems were read by actors Simon Callow, Sinéad Cusack and Patrick Kennedy with Ambassador Mulhall reading the final poem, *Politics*. The Ambassador also delivered the 'introductions' to the poems, as scripted by Josephine Hart. Divided into four sections, the programme provided a narrative of Yeats' life and a contextualisation of his poetry.

Approximately 80 people were in attendance. This was the second time the Poetry Hour has taken place in the Embassy.

27-28 November

The **Embassy in New Delhi**, in collaboration with the India International Centre, organised a celebration of the life and work of Yeats. Over 300 people attended a series of lectures, discussions readings and performances over the two days. Dr. Keith Hopper delivered the keynote lecture, exploring Yeats' long-standing connection to India and how it influenced his work. This Yeats celebration was also an opportunity to thank the Bulbulia family for their gift of a bust of W.B Yeats, soon to be presented as a gift to India from the Irish State.

30 November

The **Ambassador in London** delivered the annual John Betjeman Lecture, having been invited by the Bedford Park Society. The topic of the lecture was the Yeats Family of Bedford Park, the London suburb where Yeats and his family lived in the late 1870s and again between 1888 and 1902.

December

2 December

The **Embassy in Copenhagen** hosted an event to showcase the legacy of Yeats in Ireland, and particularly the award-winning multimedia exhibition on Yeats which the National Library of Ireland has hosted for the past 10 years. Two speakers travelled from Ireland – Mr. Mark Leslie, whose company Martello Media designed the exhibition, and Katherine McSharry, Head of Outreach and a member of the Boards of the National Library. Mr. Leslie gave an overview of Yeats' life and legacy, and how that has been captured in the exhibition. Ms. McSharry was able to provide context to the National Library's relationship with Yeats, as a location where he often wrote, and latterly as the repository of many of his papers and documents. Yeats' granddaughter, Caitriona Yeats, a Copenhagen resident, was the guest of honour.

3 December

The **Consul General in Hong Kong** hosted an evening of poetry and music in the new Consulate premises, working with the leading third level colleges in the city and key contacts from the annual Hong Kong International Literary Festival. The event included readings of Yeats' work in English, Cantonese and Mandarin by a range of local poets and students of Yeats' work.

3 - 5 December

The **Embassy in Nairobi** organised a series of events commemorating the work of W.B. Yeats, with the participation of poet Colette Bryce. The main commemoration was an evening of poetry held at PAWA254 on 3rd December, with a presentation on the work of Yeats delivered by Colette Bryce and Kenyan poets Corinne and Mufasa performing their own work. On 4 December, Colette Bryce also gave a seminar on the works of W.B. Yeats to staff and students of Kenyatta University, Nairobi and a further lecture was delivered to an Irish community gathering on 5th December.

4 – 5 December

The **Leuven Centre for Irish Studies (LCIS)** hosted a major Yeats event with music, recitals and a talk given by Meg Harper, Chair of the International Yeats Society. Scholars from across Europe were invited for the launch of the book "Yeats Reborn". A European-wide initiative organised by the

European Federation of Associations and Centres of Irish Studies (EFACIS), the aim of the “Yeats Reborn” project was to produce translations of Yeats in the languages of the participating academics, translators, students and poets. Almost 220 translations from 23 countries in 21 languages were produced of a selection of 35 poems, 5 plays and 5 essays from Yeats’ oeuvre. The best 90 translations were selected by an expert panel in order to produce the book. A website containing all 220 translations has also been created. The Ambassador to Belgium spoke at the book launch and the **Embassy in Brussels** hosted a reception in Leuven to mark the occasion. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provides funding to the EFACIS.

The **Embassy in Athens**, with the University of Athens and the Irish Institute of Hellenic Studies at Athens, hosted a major poetry symposium as part of the Yeats 150 celebrations. The conference was entitled ‘Inner and Outer Landscapes of Irish and Greek Poets’. Five Irish poets travelled for the events and made various contributions over two days, including lectures on: the work of Yeats; the theme of ‘Yeats @ 150’; and the broader impact of Yeats’ work on Irish poetry and literature. The visiting group were matched by five prominent Greek poets who also participated throughout and gave a Greek view on Yeats. Professor Fran O’Rourke from UCD set a number of Yeats poems to music and performed his works. Over the two days, upwards of 600 people attended the lectures, seminars and workshops. The Ambassador to Greece spoke at the events and sponsored the ‘Irish Lyrical Evening’ on the final day. The event included a translation project by students from the University of Athens who translated various Irish poems into Greek and read their work during the lyrical Irish evening.

6 December

The **Ambassador to Great Britain** attended an evening of Yeats’ poetry and Irish music organised by the London Irish Councillors Network in the WB Yeats Pub in Islington. The event was held in aid of the Irish welfare organisation, the Aisling project. The Ambassador read four poems: *When you are old*, *No Second Troy*, *Easter 1916*, and *What Then?* Councillor Troy Gallagher from Letterkenny read a message of support from Labour leader and Islington MP, Jeremy Corbyn, who asked that *The Lake Isle of Innisfree* be read on his behalf.

16 December

The **Consulate General in Hong Kong** joined with the British Honorary Consul in Macau, and the Macau Literary Festival, to host an evening of Yeats’ poetry and song (right). The Consul General welcomed guests before readings and songs were recited in English, Portuguese, Cantonese, Mandarin and Irish.



MACAU EVENT

19 December

The **Consulate General in Hong Kong** joined in the worldwide readings of *Lake Isle of Innisfree* by arranging for a local team member to read the poem to camera in Cantonese and to share the clip via Twitter.

Compiled by the Trade Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs
and Trade

