

HIDDEN CONNECTIONS

Ulster and slavery 1807 - 2007

Linen Hall Library and other venues

18th October to 30th November 2007



AT A GLANCE

Hidden Connections events guide

SLAVERY ARCHIVES AWARENESS EVENING

18TH OCTOBER, 7:30 PM, ROSEMARY STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORKSHOP

26TH OCTOBER, 2:00 – 4:00 PM, LINEN HALL LIBRARY

EXHIBITION

5TH–30TH NOVEMBER, MON-FRI: 9:30–17:30 PM, SAT: 9:30–1:00 PM
VERTICAL GALLERY, LINEN HALL LIBRARY

LECTURES IN THE LINEN HALL LIBRARY

6TH NOVEMBER, 7:30 PM, DR NINI RODGERS

8TH NOVEMBER, 6:00 PM, PROFESSOR BILL ROLSTON

13TH NOVEMBER, 6:00 PM, PROFESSOR KEVIN WHELAN

15TH NOVEMBER, 6:00 PM, PROFESSOR CATHERINE CLINTON

LITERATURE EVENING

20TH NOVEMBER, 6:00 PM, LINEN HALL LIBRARY

BUS AND WALKING TOUR

24TH NOVEMBER, 11:00 – 2:30 PM, DONEGALL SQUARE NORTH

MUSIC EVENT: SLAVERY AND THE BALLAD

24TH NOVEMBER, 3:00 PM, THE JOHN HEWITT BAR, DONEGALL ST.

LAGAN BOAT TRIP

25TH NOVEMBER, 1:00 PM PROMPT, LAGAN LOOKOUT

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

28TH NOVEMBER, 6:00 PM, LINEN HALL LIBRARY



SLAVERY ARCHIVES AWARENESS EVENING

18TH OCTOBER, 7:30 PM

ROSEMARY STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BELFAST

SPEAKERS:

- William Wilberforce (descendant of William Wilberforce 1759-1833)
- Dr Nini Rodgers: Ireland and Slavery – the Far Flung Sources
- Dr Grace McGrath: Slavery – the Story from the Archives

'Freedom and Liberty' is the theme of this year's UK-wide *Archives Awareness Event*. The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland has organised this special event to explore sources held by them and also to be found further afield.

Bookings for this event can be made with Carrie Green at the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland. Telephone: 902 55921

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORKSHOP

26TH OCTOBER, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

LINEN HALL LIBRARY

A reading and discussion for students at 2nd level education by *Catherine Clinton*, an acclaimed author and specialist writer for young readers. Her work includes several novels on slavery and African-American historical themes.

EXHIBITION

5TH-30TH NOVEMBER, MON-FRI: 9:30-5:30 PM, SAT: 9:30-1:00 PM
VERTICAL GALLERY, LINEN HALL LIBRARY

HIDDEN CONNECTIONS – SLAVERY AND ULSTER 1807 – 2007

Curated by Grace McGrath, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland

This unique exhibition features the main figures, events and places to the story of Ulster and both the pro and anti-slavery debate.

Leading Belfast merchant, Waddell Cunningham made his fortune through direct involvement in the slave plantations of the West Indies, and was one of the promoters of a proposed Belfast slave company.

Belfast built substantial trade with the West Indies, but the proposal for the formation of a slave trading company was bitterly opposed and came to nothing.

Pioneer opponents of slavery included Thomas Russell, Librarian of what is today's Linen Hall Library, and other members including Dr James MacDonnell and Mary Ann McCracken.

The 1807 Act didn't finally abolish slavery, and included in the exhibition is correspondence from William Wilberforce to Lord Castlereagh seeking to secure further progress for the anti-slavery movement, while other Ulstermen continued to benefit from the practice.

A graphic exhibition drawing on the resources of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, the Linen Hall Library, the Ulster Museum and many others.



LECTURES

6TH NOVEMBER, 7:30 PM
LINEN HALL LIBRARY

OLAUDAH EQUIANO'S BELFAST

Dr Nini Rodgers

In 1791 the celebrated freed slave, Olaudah Equiano, toured Ireland to promote his best selling autobiography. While welcomed throughout the island, he declared that he was 'particularly well treated in Belfast'. His visit aroused considerable interest in a town which had long prospered on trading and other links with the slave colonies, but was now producing anti-slavery radicals.

Dr Rodgers is the author of *Ireland, Slavery and Anti-Slavery: 1612-1865 (2007)*, and of *Equiano and Anti-Slavery in Eighteenth Century Belfast (2000)*.

8TH NOVEMBER, 6:00 PM
LINEN HALL LIBRARY

HOME AND AWAY: 19TH CENTURY IRELAND, RACISM AND ANTI-RACISM

Professor Bill Rolston

There is a myth that because Ireland was never fully integrated into the transatlantic slave trade it had little opportunity to develop its own brand of racism. On the contrary, Irish people have been encountering people of colour, both on and off the island, for centuries providing countless opportunities for the emergence of both racism and anti-racism.

This lecture will look at some of those encounters in the nineteenth century – at the experience of black abolitionist visitors to Ireland, and of Scots-Irish and Catholic Irish emigrants to America.

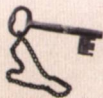
Bill Rolston is Professor of Sociology at the University of Ulster and co-author of *Encounters: How Racism Came to Ireland* (2002)

13TH NOVEMBER, 6:00 PM
LINEN HALL LIBRARY

LIBERTY AND SLAVERY – FROM KING WILLIAM TO O'CONNELL
Professor Kevin Whelan

No language was more prevalent in Irish political discourse from 1690 to 1829 than that of freedom and slavery. Ultimately rooted in classical republican discourse, it enjoyed a fresh lease of life in the eighteenth century, and was a central aspect of both the American and French Revolutions. This illustrated lecture will trace the genealogy of these ideas in an Irish context. It will look at the contrasting meanings of freedom and liberty, exploring their different resonances in Catholic and Protestant circles. Particular attention will be paid to the efforts of the United Irishmen to rethink the concepts. The lecture concludes with an examination of the O'Connellite project, O'Connell's personal crusade against slavery and difficulties with Irish-America, and the fraught relationship between class and race in Irish-America.

Professor Whelan is Smurfit Director of the Keough Naughton Notre Dame Centre in Dublin. Perhaps best known amongst his many publications are *The Tree of Liberty* (1996) and the award winning *Atlas of the Irish Rural Landscape* (1997). His *The Green Atlantic: Ireland and the wider World in the long Eighteenth Century* is forthcoming.



LECTURES (CTD.)

15TH NOVEMBER, 6:00 PM
LINEN HALL LIBRARY

AMERICA'S PECULIAR INSTITUTION: SLAVERY AFTER 1807

Professor Catherine Clinton

Gender was important in shaping slavery's development in the United States, and the emergence of a self-sustaining plantation slave society – prompted by the end of the international slave trade and the expansion of cotton.

Resistance to American slavery created a movement of blacks and whites running an 'underground railroad' assisting slaves on the road to freedom.

Catherine Clinton is Professor of U.S. History at Queen's University and author of *Harriet Tubman: the Road to Freedom* (2004) and *Fanny Kemble's Civil Wars* (2000).

LITERATURE EVENING

20TH NOVEMBER, 6:00 PM
LINEN HALL LIBRARY

SUGAR BLOOD

An evening of readings and enactments reflecting debate and events leading to the abolition of the slavery trade. Edited and directed by Gerard McLaughlin and performed by local actors.

For a time 25.55 to 40p
BUS AND WALKING TOUR

24TH NOVEMBER, 11:00 AM - 2:30 PM

EMBARK: DONEGALL SQUARE NORTH

EQUIANO'S BELFAST

Led by Dr Nini Rodgers

A tour of several locations including Knockbreda Parish Church (to view the ornate tomb of Waddell Cunningham), First Presbyterian Church (Rosemary Street), the old Assembly Rooms, Clifton House, and Clifton Street graveyard. All of which have associations with the slavery debate.

En route a group of actors will re-enact key arguments of the period.

MUSIC EVENT

24TH NOVEMBER, 3:00 PM

THE JOHN HEWITT BAR, DONEGALL STREET

SLAVERY AND THE BALLAD

Separate specially arranged sessions for Hidden Connections performed by Brian Moore and the Nuada duo (Ferris Jay and Sam Burke).

Tickets are not required for this event.



LAGAN BOAT TRIP

25TH NOVEMBER, 1:00 PM PROMPT
EMBARK: LAGAN LOOKOUT

An informative and entertaining journey along the River Lagan, with commentary by *Gerard McLaughlin*, and music by *Andy Dixon*, *Brendan O'Hare* and *Maria Rafferty*.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

28TH NOVEMBER, 6:00 PM
LINEN HALL LIBRARY

SLAVERY NOW

A panel discussion and Q & A session featuring *Peter Bunting* of the Irish Congress of Trades Unions, *Daniel Holder* of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, and *Shami Chakrabarti* of Liberty*. Other contributors to be announced.

Slavery has increasingly been outlawed at international and state level, but people trafficking is alive and well, and whether as boy soldiers, victims of the sex trade, or illegal immigrants, many are slaves or suffer in conditions that share many of the aspects of slavery.

Peter Bunting is Assistant General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trades Unions. Shami Chakrabarti is Director of Liberty. Daniel Holder is Policy Worker at the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission.

* *circumstances permitting*

EUROPE



Geographical Scale
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two points is 1000 Miles
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HOW TO BOOK

Admission to all events is free, but tickets are required so advanced booking is advised.

ON-LINE: www.linenhall.com/programme.asp

PHONE: Linen Hall Library 028 9032 1707

IN PERSON: Tickets can be booked in the Linen Hall Library, 17 Donegall Square North, Belfast, BT1 5GB

BOX OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Fri: 9:30 – 5:30 PM
Sat: 9:30 – 12:30 PM

For further information please call 028 9032 1707



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