RECOMMENDED LIGHT READING

LÉITHEOIREACHT ÉADROM MHOLTA

Bernadette Devlin, The Price of my Soul (1969). An account of the early life of a political activist in Northern Ireland.

Patrick Dewitt, The Sisters Brothers (2011). Comic novel set in Wild West in 1850s.

Roddy Doyle, The Snapper (1990). A comic novel about single motherhood in Dublin.

Dee Brown, Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee (1970). The history of the American West seen from the Native Americans' point of view.

W.E.B. Du Bois, The Souls of Black Folk (1903). A great African American intellectual sees racial discrimination as the world's biggest problem in the incoming 20th century.

Umberto Eco, The Name of the Rose (1983). A medieval murder mystery.

T. Evergates, ed., Aristocratic Women in Medieval France (1999). A volume of essays by historians.

Sebastian Faulks, Birdsong (1993). Novel about English soldiers in France in World War One.

Theodor Fontane, Effi Briest (1894). A novel about the honour code of the Prussian aristocracy.

Charles Frazier, Cold Mountain (1996). An ordinary southern man caught up in the American Civil War struggles to survive and go back home.

Stephen Fry, Making History (1996). A novel by British comedian in which a time machine is used to prevent the birth of Hitler.

June Goulding, Light in the Window (2005). Memoir by a mid-wife who worked in a mother and baby home in 1950s Ireland.

Hugo Hamilton, The Speckled People (2003). A memoir by the son of an avid Irish-speaking father and German mother, set in postwar Dublin.

R. Harris, Selling Hitler (1986). A novel based on the forgery of Hitler’s diaries.

Eric Hobsbawm, Interesting Times: A Twentieth-Century Life (2002). The autobiography of a famous Marxist historian, born in 1917 and raised in Austria, Germany and Britain.

Aldous Huxley, The Devils of Loudun (1953). A tale of demons and religious fanatics in seventeenth-century France.

P. Jackson, tr. & D. Morgan, ed . The Mission of Friar William of Rubruck: His Journey to the Court of the Great Khan Möngke, 1253-1255 (2009). A medieval travel memoir about Mongolia.

Patrick Kavanagh, The Green Fool (first published 1938). A poet’s memoir of life in early 20th century Ireland.

Stephen King, 22/11/1963 (2011). A novel in which a time traveller tries to prevent the murder of JFK.

Alison Light, Mrs Woolf and the Servants (2003). An account of the relations between feminist writer, Virgina Woolf, and her domestic servants.

Walter Macken, The Coll Doll and other Stories (1969). A collection of short stories by Galway writer, published shortly after his death.

Steve Mac Donogh, Open Book: One Publisher’s War (1999). The autobiography of the founder of the publishing house, Brandon Books.

Frank Mc Court, Angela’s Ashes (1996). A memoir of a childhood in very poor circumstances in Limerick of the 1930s and 1940s.

Dervla Murphy, Full Tilt: Ireland to India with a Bicycle (first published 1965). A Waterford woman’s travel narrative.

Paul Murray, Skippy Dies (2010). Tragicomic novel set in contemporary private boys’ school in Dublin.

Irène Némirovsky, Suite Française (1998). English translation of novel describing French responses to German occupation, unfinished because of writer’s deportation to Auschwitz, where she died.

Edwin O’Connor, The Last Hurrah (1956). A novel about Irish American politicians on east coast of America.

Erich Maria Remarque, All Quiet on the Western Front (1929). A novel criticizing German militarism in World War One, banned by the Nazis.

Joseph Roth, The Radetzky March (1932). A novel describing the last days of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy.

Philip Roth, The Plot Against America (2004). Novel set in 1940s America with Charles Lindbergh instead of Roosevelt as President.

E.P.Thompson, Customs in Common (first published 1991). Influential and extremely interesting essays in English social history.

E.P. Thompson, Memories of Tagore (1986). An account by a famous historian of his father’s visit to home of Bengali poet, Rabindranath Tagore, in 1913.

J. Tolan, Saracens: Islam in the Medieval European Imagination (2002). A history of anti-Muslim sentiment in Europe.

Evelyn Waugh, Brideshead Revisited (1945). A novel about an English Catholic aristocratic family from the 1920s to 1940s.

Rebecca West, The Fountain Overflows (1956). An autobiographical novel by an English journalist, novelist and travel writer dealing with England, U.S. and Yugoslavia.

Diarmuid Whelan (ed.), Peter Tyrell, Founded on Fear (2006). A memoir by an inmate of the industrial school in Letterfrack, discovered long after his death.