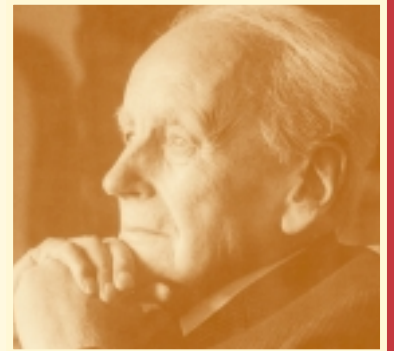


THE HUBERT BUTLER CENTENARY CELEBRATION

20-22 OCTOBER 2000  KILKENNY, IRELAND

HUBERT BUTLER (1900-1991), Kilkenny man-of-letters, remains a largely undiscovered treasure of Irish literature. Proud of his Protestant heritage while still deeply committed to the Irish nation, he sought in his life and writing to ensure that Ireland would grow into an open and pluralistic society. His essays are masterful literature in the tradition of Swift and Shaw, eloquent and humane readings of Irish and European history, and ultimately hopeful testimony to human progress.

Widely travelled, Butler wrote on a great diversity of subjects outside Ireland, not the least concerning his experience of the Balkans, much of which remains deeply relevant to the recent history of the region. Join us for a weekend of conversation celebrating the life and work of this extraordinary Irish countryman, European and citizen of the world.



Hubert Butler was the author of four collections of essays assembled in the last decade of his life and published in Ireland by Lilliput Press: *Escape from the Anthill* (1986), *The Children of Drancy* (1988), *Grandmother and Wolfe Tone* (1990) and *In the Land of Nod* (1996). The selected editions of his work are *Independent Spirit* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, USA, 1998), *The Sub-Prefect Should Have Held His Tongue* (Penguin, Britain, 1992), *L'Envahisseur est venu en pantoufles* (France, Anatolia Editions, 1995) and *Balkan Essays: 1937-1990* (Zid, Sarajevo, 2001). He was also the author of *Ten Thousand Saints: A Study in Irish & European Origins* (The Wellbrook Press, Kilkenny, 1972).

"He was, one imagines, a man of phlegmatic disposition, fond now and then of quoting Horace, and the distinctly Horatian equipoise that marks his writing wasn't a posture. As early as the age of fourteen he resolved to live where he was born, and for all his languages and travels he stuck to this resolution to the end of his days. Which is to say, he knew his place on this earth, and this was what enabled him to provide us with a unique commodity: a perspective which is steady."

Joseph Brodsky

The celebration will begin with a Keynote Address, "Hubert Butler and His Century", by the distinguished Oxford historian Roy Foster on Friday evening, followed by three Sessions: "Remembering Butler" (Saturday morning), "Butler in Ireland" (Saturday afternoon) and "Butler Abroad" (Sunday morning). In each Session a series of speakers will address aspects of Butler's life and work. There will also be Conference Receptions at Kilkenny Castle and at Maidenhall, the Butler family home. The speakers will include John Banville, Edna Longley, Joe Hone, Tim Robinson, Fintan O'Toole, Nicholas Grene, Chris Agee, Dick Crampton, Christopher Fitz-Simon, Tomaz Salamun, Proinsias Ó Drisceoil, Rob Tobin, Peter Smithwick, Christopher Merrill, Caroline Walsh, Eleanor Burgess and Antony Farrell. *The Observer* columnist Neal Ascherson will deliver the Closing Address on Sunday afternoon, "Hubert Butler's Contemporary Relevance". The Conference venue will be Butler House, in the centre of Kilkenny.

The registration fee of IRE30 (€25stg, 40 Euro or US \$40) includes tickets to the Keynote Address, the three Sessions, the two Receptions and the Closing Address. Ticket numbers are limited. Early registration is strongly recommended. Tickets may not be available at the door. Ticket allocation will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. An accommodation booking form will be provided upon registration.

REGISTRATION

Please register me now for the Hubert Butler Centenary Celebration and send me the Conference Programme, Conference Pass for all events and an accommodation booking form. I enclose a cheque/money order for IRE30, €25stg, 40 Euro or US \$40. _____ (tick here).

OR

Please send me the Conference Programme. I enclose a cheque or money order for IRE3.00, €2.00stg, 4 Euro, or US \$5.00 _____ (tick here).

Name:

Address:

Tel:

E-mail:

Payment must be in cheques or money orders in the above currencies (no credit cards can be accepted). They should be made payable to The Hubert Butler Centenary Celebration and sent to the following address:

THE HUBERT BUTLER CENTENARY CELEBRATION

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