

ANNUAL REPORT

of

AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY

----- 1955 -----

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The Aisling Society of Sydney was first mooted at a Dinner-Party at Pfahler's Hotel on 24th August, 1954. The group of Irish and Irish-Australian people present agreed to launch a Society which should seek to make people of Irish stock in Sydney more conscious of the value of their heritage. Mr. Frank Corder, of the Melbourne Aisling, was present as Guest of Honour and gave an inspiring address. The visit in September of Miss Sybil Connolly, the famous Dublin dress designer, and the kindness of the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Mr. P.D. Hills, M.L.A. in giving her a civic reception under the auspices of the Society helped us to become known.

A formal opening Meeting was held on 8th November, 1954, at which subscriptions (£2/2/0) were received, a draft constitution discussed, and suggestions made for 1955 activities. A very successful late afternoon Christmas Party was held on the 14th December at History House. Mr. & Mrs. Patrick O'Hagan were Guests of Honor. About 100 people were present, over 50 being members.

On Wednesday, 16th March 1955 the Constitution was adopted and Officers of the Society elected. These were :

|                                                            |   |                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PRESIDENT                                                  | : | Mr. BRIAN J. McGRATH                                                                                                     |
| HON. TREASURER                                             | : | Miss ENA SULLIVAN                                                                                                        |
| HON. SECRETARY                                             | : | Miss MARY M. HEGARTY                                                                                                     |
| (These three had been acting and were confirmed in office) |   |                                                                                                                          |
| VICE-PRESIDENTS                                            | : | His Hon. Judge G.J. O'SULLIVAN<br>Rev. Fr. N. McNALLY<br>Mr. G.B. THOMAS                                                 |
| LIBRARIAN                                                  | : | Mr. JAMES A. MEAGHER                                                                                                     |
| PUBLICITY OFFICER                                          | : | Mr. T.K. McCUAIG                                                                                                         |
| COUNCIL                                                    | : | Miss ISOBEL BRADLEY<br>Miss ELLEN DOHERTY<br>Miss KAY WARD<br>Mr. EDMUND BOURKE<br>Mr. DENIS KEVANS<br>Mr. ALEX MITCHELL |

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Mr. James A. Meagher at the April Meeting gave a lucid and scholarly address on the personality and background of W.B. Yeats. Early in May the Council of the Aisling Society gave a buffet dinner at Pfahlert's Hotel to the Hon. W.F. Sheahan, Q.C., M.L.A., Attorney-General of N.S.W. on the eve of his departure to represent the N.S.W. Bar at a Law Convention in London. In May also two well-known teachers of Irish dancing presented a number of their pupils in a first-rate demonstration of the different dances.

Rev. Fr. N. McNally at the August Meeting discussed Irish clan families of Australia in a lively and remarkably well-informed talk. In September, by courtesy of Mr. M.L. Skentelbery, Charge d'affaires of the Irish Embassy, Canberra, a programme of films was shown - three coloured travel films and the beautiful black and white "Tribute to Yeats". On Friday, 30th September members of the Council participated in the I.N.A. official welcome to Interstate teams participating in the Annual Feis.

Mr. Alex. Mitchell at the November Meeting played a number of Irish records, many by artists not known out here, and all of great interest. A literary group, led by Miss Ellen Doherty, has had two meetings, enjoyed by those present. There has been talk of musical and dramatic groups, but these have not yet developed. The Council has held regular meetings.

During 1955 membership of the Aisling Society has grown to 93 and all Meetings have been well-attended. This is very gratifying, and shows that there is a true place for our Society in the life of Sydney, as long as we all try to contribute to its activities.

On behalf of the Council -

MARY M. HEGARTY

(Hon. Secretary).

#### HON. TREASURER'S STATEMENT

August 1954 to November 1955

| <u>EXPENDITURE</u>       |                    | <u>INCOME</u>               |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Printing                 | £39. 2. 7          | 93 Membership Subscriptions |                    |
| Postage, Stationery      | 20. 6. 2           | at £2/2/-                   | £195. 6. 0         |
| Hire of Halls            | 34.16. 0           | Subscriptions to            |                    |
| Christmas Party          | 40.12. 9           | Christmas Party             | 32.12. 6           |
| Guarantee on Suppers     | 10.16. 0           |                             |                    |
| Donation Building Fund - |                    |                             |                    |
| I.N.A.                   | 10.10. 0           |                             |                    |
| Donation Gaelic Festival | 12.10.10           |                             |                    |
| Sundries                 | 9.15. 6            |                             |                    |
| Balance -                | 49. 8. 8           |                             |                    |
| Total -                  | <u>£ 227.18. 6</u> | Total -                     | <u>£ 227.18. 6</u> |
|                          |                    | CREDIT BALANCE B/D.         | £ 49. 8. 8         |

AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY

1. The Society shall be styled "The Aisling Society of Sydney".
2. The objects of the Society shall be:
  - (a) The promotion of cultural relationships between Australia and Ireland.
  - (b) The fostering of the study of the history, life and culture of Ireland.
  - (c) The study of the effect of our Irish heritage on Australian life.
3. For the purpose of carrying out its objects the Society may:
  - (a) undertake the compilation of authentic records of Australian-Irish relationships;
  - (b) undertake the collection of books, records, manuscripts and relics;
  - (c) promote lectures, readings and discussions and the exchange of information relating to the history, language, literature, art, music, song, drama and dancing of Ireland;
  - (d) publish a Journal containing the proceedings of the Society, papers, and other contributions and records;
  - (e) establish branches;
  - (f) affiliate with other Societies whose objects in whole or in part may be beneficial to the Society's activities and objectives;
  - (g) carry out such other activities as the Council of the Society may from time to time determine.
4. The Society shall carry on its activities at such place or places as the Council may from time to time consider suitable.
5. Members who join the Society and pay their first subscription on or before 31st March, 1955, shall be styled "Foundation Members". They are hereafter included in the term "Members" unless otherwise excluded.

6. Members (other than Foundation Members) shall be nominated in writing by a Member and proposed for election at the next ensuing meeting of the Council and the Council shall have power to reject any candidate for membership or to refuse to renew the membership of any person without assigning any reason therefor.
7. The rights and liabilities of Members shall continue only whilst such Members are financial and are not transferable and terminate when Membership is discontinued. A person whose subscription has not been renewed by the thirty-first day of May in any year shall be deemed not to be financial for the year in question until his subscription is paid.
8. Members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all General Meetings of the Society, to be elected to the Council, to use (subject to Rules which may be made by the Council) the library of the Society and to introduce friends as visitors to Ordinary Meetings of the Society.
9. The Officers of the Society shall consist of a President (who shall hold office for not more than two years continuously), three Vice-Presidents, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer, an Honorary Librarian and an Honorary Publicity Officer. The foregoing Officers with six other Members of the Society shall constitute the Council of the Society. Members of the Council (other than members of the first Council) shall be elected by ballot of the members at the Annual General Meeting and they shall take office on the first day of January in the succeeding year. The election of Members of the first Council in addition to the President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer already in office, shall take place at the Meeting of the Society to be held in the month of March, 1955.
10. The General Management of the affairs of the Society shall be vested in the Council, five of the Members of which shall form a quorum.
11. The Council shall have power -
  - (a) to call Meetings of the Society and to cancel any such Meeting should it seem fit;
  - (b) to fill casual vacancies in the Council, including officers;
  - (c) to replace any Councillor absent for three consecutive Meetings without approved excuse;
  - (d) to appoint, disband, reconstitute and amalgamate sub-committees as necessary, to make recommendations to the Council with regard to the activities of the Society relating to the history, language, literature, art, music, song, drama, dancing of Ireland and other matters of Irish culture, and to the social activities of the Society. Members of such sub-committees need not necessarily be members of the Society and the President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall be ex officio members of all such sub-committees;

- (e) to manage and control the expenditure of the Society;
  - (f) to appoint from time to time any person or persons as advisers to the Council and to terminate any such appointment;
  - (g) to co-opt any person, whether or not a member of the Society, to the Council for such purposes as the Council may deem expedient;
  - (h) to enter into any arrangement for the printing and publishing of the Journal of the Society;
  - (i) to draw up the programme of the activities of the Society and to amend such programme as from time to time may seem necessary;
  - (j) arrange social meetings of the Society;
  - (k) in general, to do all other acts and things which it may consider necessary or desirable in the interests of the Society or to carry out its objects.
12. Special Meetings of the Society shall be called at the discretion of the Council or on the written requisition of twenty financial Members.
  13. The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held in or about the month of November in each year. Financial Members are to be notified by the Honorary Secretary of the time and place of this Meeting at which only financial Members shall be entitled to vote. At this Meeting twenty Members shall constitute a quorum.
  14. The President shall take the Chair at all Meetings of the Council and of the Society. In his absence one of the Vice-Presidents shall preside. In the absence of the President and all three Vice-Presidents, a Chairman shall be appointed ad hoc.
  15. The first financial year shall extend to 31st December, 1955 and subsequent financial years shall commence on the 1st day of January and extend to the 31st day of December following.
  16. An Honorary Auditor shall be appointed at each Annual General Meeting to act in that capacity for the ensuing financial year. The Council shall prepare and submit to each Annual General Meeting a Report and Balance Sheet for the current financial year.
  17. Each Member shall pay an Annual Subscription the amount of which shall be such as the Council may from time to time determine. Until determination is made the Annual Subscription shall be Two Guineas. In the case of first admission to membership after the 1st July in any year, the subscription to the Society for the balance of that year shall be one-half the current annual subscription. For any Meeting or social function of the Society such charge as the Council may fix in the particular case may be made. The Council may, in particular cases, exempt any person from payment of any subscription or other charge.

18. The Honorary Secretary shall keep a list of the names and addresses of all members and a book containing the minutes of all meetings.
19. The Honorary Treasurer shall receive and pay out the moneys of the Society and shall keep an account thereof.
20. A Bank Account shall be opened in the name of the Society and cheques shall be signed by any two of the following officers:-

The President, the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer.

Any one of these officers shall be empowered to endorse cheque.

21. Any Member changing his or her address shall notify such change to the Honorary Secretary without delay.
22. The President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer of the Society for the time being shall hold the property of the Society as Trustees for the use of the Society without prejudice to the control of the Council over the disbursement of the funds and the management of the property of the Society.
23. The Council shall meet for the transaction of business when summoned by the Secretary or on the requisition of any three Members of the Council. A Meeting of the Council shall be held within the fortnight prior to each Ordinary Meeting of the Society.
24. No alteration to these Rules shall be made unless carried at the Ordinary Meeting and confirmed at the next Ordinary Meeting by the vote of at least a two-thirds majority of the Members present. Fourteen days notice shall be given to the Honorary Secretary of an intention to propose any such alteration and such notice shall set out the details of the proposed alteration and the Secretary shall give seven days notice of same to Members.
25. In matters not expressly provided for in these Rules, the Council shall have full authority to act.

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