

1913 Galway Oireachtas

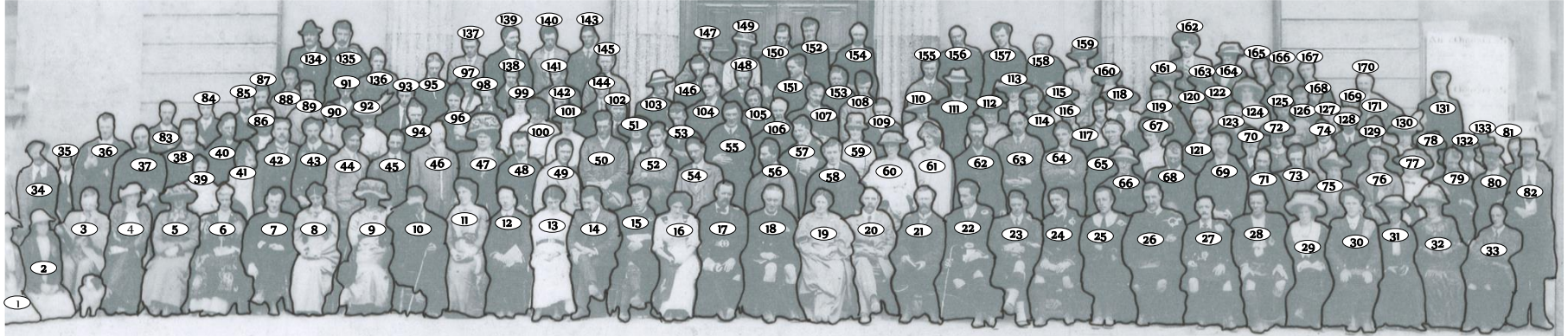
This photograph of the delegates attending the *Ard Fheis* (Gaelic League national convention) was taken in front of Galway's Town Hall (now the Town Hall Theatre) during the course of the weeklong *Oireachtas* (the annual Gaelic League's national cultural festival) in late July/early August 1913. It had been the established custom to convene the annual 'parliament of the Gaels' concurrently with *An tOireachtas*, and in the summer of 1913, Galway, the so-called 'Capital of Irish speaking Ireland' was chosen to have the honour of hosting the first *Oireachtas* outside of Dublin. This highlighted the centrality of Galway city and county (which boasted fifty per cent of the country's surviving native speakers at the turn of the 20th century) to the League's efforts to preserve Irish as a spoken communal language.

The 1913 *Ard Fheis* marked an important juncture in the history of the Gaelic League as internal divisions between the apolitical old guard of the movement and a republican/I.R.B. faction had come to the fore in the months preceding the convention. Dr. Douglas Hyde, the co-founder and President of the Gaelic League since its foundation in 1893, had resigned several weeks prior to the proceedings in protest at alleged attempts by the latter radical element to politicise the organisation and undermine his leadership. The time was not yet ripe for an overt republican takeover however, and Hyde, who had received immense popular endorsement throughout the *Oireachtas*, was re-elected as President to near universal acclaim. This was a hollow victory for the moderates however.

The tumultuous political dynamics of the coming years would ultimately render the ascendant republican tide too strong to withstand, for at the Dundalk *Oireachtas* of 1915 the Gaelic League would revoke its hitherto politically neutral stance and declare its support for separatism.

One of the most remarkable features of the Galway *Oireachtas* and *Ard Fheis* was the presence among the delegates of so many of the political and military elite of the subsequent Irish Revolution 1916-1923, and indeed that of the independent Irish state to which it gave birth. This historic group photograph is tantamount to a Who's Who of the 'coming revolution', with as many as perhaps half the signatories of the 1916 proclamation (including Pádraig Pearse, Seán Mac Diarmada and Éamonn Ceannt) as well as three future Presidents of Ireland (Douglas Hyde, Seán T. O'Kelly and Eamon de Valera) being present.

Dara Folan (Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh/ NUI Galway)



1. Unidentified 2. Unidentified 3. Dr. Holger Pedersen (1867-1963) 4. Unidentified 5. Unidentified 6. Emily Weddall (1867-1952) 7. Fr. Anthony Considine? 8. Úna Ní Fhaircheallaigh (1874-1951) 9. Unidentified 10. Pádraic Ó Conaire (1882-1928) 11. Kate Ryan (1878-1934) 12. Seán Tomás Ó Ceallaigh (1882-1966) 13. Nell Ryan (1881-1959) 14. Seosamh Laoide (J.H. Lloyd) (1865-1939) 15. Colm Ó Gaora (1887-1954) 16. Caitlín Nic Gabhann (c.1882-?) 17. Unidentified 18. William Gibson, Lord Ashbourne (1868-1942) 19. Nelli Ní Bhriain (1864-1925) 20. Dubhghlas de Híde (1860-1949) 21. Eoin Mac Neill (1867-1945) 22. Pádraig Ó Siochrádhra, An Seabhaic (1883-1964) 23. James Ennis (1885-1965)? 24. Tomás Ághas (1885-1917) 25. Séamus Ó Brennan (Tullamore Volunteer) 26. Eamon Ceannt (1881-1916) 27. Seoirse Mac Niocaill (1881-1968) 28. Peadar Ó hAnnracháin (1873-1965) 29. Nóra Ághas (1882-1970)? 30. Colm O'Lochláinn (1892-1972) 31. Unidentified 32. Unidentified 33. Pádraic Colum (1881-1972)? 34. Unidentified 35. Unidentified 36. Seán Ó Cearbhaill (1875-1935) 37. Unidentified 38. Unidentified 39. Unidentified 40. Very Rev. Thomas Gilmartin, Bishop of Clonfert (1861-1939)? 41. Unidentified 42. Unidentified 43. Séamus Mac Artúir 44. Pilib de Bhaldráithe (1874-1952) 45. Joe McGuinness (1875-1922) 46. George Noble Plunkett, Count Plunkett (1851-1948) 47. Josephine Cranny, Countess Plunkett (1858-1954) 48. Stiofán Bairéad (1867-1921) 49. Piaras Béalsai (1881-1965) 50. Unidentified 51. Nora Ní Fhoghludha (1879-1926)? 52. Seán Mac Diarmada (1883-1916) 53. Micheál Ó Foghludha (1877-1961) 54. Con Collins (1881-1937) 55. Pádraic Ó Máille (c.1878-1946) 56. George Russell, É (1867-1935) 57. Unidentified 58. Bulmer Hobson (1883-1969) 59. Rosamund Jacob (1888-1960)? 60. Máire Ní Chinnéide (1879-1967) 61. Ada English (1875-1944) 62. John Sweetman (1844-1936) 63. Séamus Mac a' Bhaird (1871-1951)? 64. Frank Gallagher (1893-1962) 65. Fr. Matt Maguire (c.1863-1927) 66. Mrs. Kathleen Clarke (1878-1972) 67. Alice Milligan (1866-1953) 68. Unidentified 69. Pádraig Ó Dálaigh (1873-1932) 70. Prof. Valentine Steinberger (c.1853-1916)? 71. Seán Ó Foghludha (1874-1944) 72. Unidentified 73. Unidentified 74. Tadhg Ó Scanaill (1870-1939) 75. Unidentified 76. Unidentified 77. Unidentified 78. Unidentified 79. Unidentified 80. Unidentified 81. Unidentified 82. Unidentified 83. Unidentified 84. Unidentified 85. Unidentified 86. Unidentified 87. Unidentified 88. Unidentified 89. Eamon de Valera (1882-1975) 90. Unidentified 91. Unidentified 92. Unidentified 93. Unidentified 94. Diarmuid Lynch (1878-1950) 95. Unidentified 96. Fr. Michael O'Flanagan (1876-1942) 97. Unidentified 98. Desmond FitzGerald (1888-1947) 99. Unidentified 100. Violet Gibson (1876-1956)? 101. Katherine Farrell (Mrs Joe McGuinness) 102. Fionnán Lynch (1889-1961) 103. Seán Pádraig Mac Éirín (1862-1930) 104. Pádraig Mac Piarais (1879-1916) 105. Mary Hayden (1862-1942) 106. Séamus Ó Cathasaigh (1864-1919) 107. Michael Joseph O'Rahilly, The O'Rahilly (1875-1916) 108. Thomas Hunter (1883-1932)? 109. Unidentified 110. Unidentified 111. Pádraig Archer (1866-1949) 112. Eibhlín Ní Dhonabháin (1858-1936) 113. Eleanor Knott (1886-1975)? 114. Cathal O'Shannon (1893-1969)? 115. Unidentified 116. Unidentified 117. Denis McCullough (1883-1968) 118. Unidentified 119. Earnán De Blaghd (1889-1975)? 120. Unidentified 121. An tAthar Peadar Ó Laoghaira (1839-1920) 122. Unidentified 123. Unidentified 124. Unidentified 125. Unidentified 126. Unidentified 127. Unidentified 128. Unidentified 129. Seán Ó Muirthile (1885-1954) 130. Unidentified 131. Unidentified 132. Unidentified 133. Unidentified 134. Ben Parsons 135. Séamus Ó Murchadha (1867-1969) 136. Unidentified 137. Unidentified 138. Unidentified 139. John Joseph, O'Kelly (Sceilg) (1872-1957) 140. Cathal Brugha (1874-1922)? 141. Risteárd Mulcahy (1886-1971)? 142. Willie Pearse (1881-1916) 143. Unidentified 144. Michael Mulvihill (1879-1916) 145. Seán Moylan (1888-1957) 146. Pádraig Ó Droighneain (1889-1969) 147. Tomás Ó Cadhain (1884-) 148. Tomás MacCurtáin (1884-1920) 149. Unidentified 150. Unidentified 151. Shán Ó Cúiv (1875-1940) 152. Unidentified 153. Unidentified 154. Unidentified 155. Eamonn O'Casey (1880-1964)? 156. Unidentified 157. Liam Ó Rinn (1888-1943) 158. Unidentified 159. Louise Gavan Duffy (1884-1969)? 160. Brigid Ní Fhoghludha (1887-1970) 161. Unidentified 162. Seán Heuston (1891-1916)? 163. Unidentified 164. Constance Markievicz, née Gore-Booth-Countess Markievicz (1868-1927)? 165. Tomás Ó Máille (1880-1938) 166. Micheál Ó Droighneain (1889-1964) 167. Patrick McCartan (1878-1963) 168. Unidentified 169. Unidentified 170. Unidentified 171. Unidentified

Oireachtas na Gaillimhe 1913

Tógadh an griangraf seo de na teachtairí a bhí ag freastal ar an Ard Fheis (tionól náisiúnta Chonradh na Gaeilge) os comhair Halla Cathrach na Gaillimhe (Amharclann Halla na Cathrach sa lá atá inniu ann) i rith seachtain an Oireachtais (féile chultúrtha bhliantúil Chonradh na Gaeilge) ag deireadh mhí Iúil/tús mhí na Lúna 1913. Bhí sé de nós ag am 'Parlaimint na nGae' a thionóil go comhthráthach leis an Oireachtas, agus i rith samhradh na bliana 1913, bronnadh an onóir ar Ghaillimh, 'The capital of Irish-speaking Ireland' mar a tugadh uirthi, chun an chéad Oireachtas taobh amuigh de Bhaile Átha Cliath a óstáil. Léirigh sé seo rithbhacht Chontae agus Chathair na Gaillimhe (ceantar ina mhair caoga faoin gcéad de chainteoirí dúchasacha Gaeilge sa tír ag tús na fichiú haoise) d'iarraichtaí an Chonartha chun an Ghaeilge a chaomnú mar theanga labhartha phobail.

Bhí tábhacht ar leith ag baint le hArd Fheis 1913 i stair Chonradh na Gaeilge de bharr na n-esaonta a bhí ag teacht chun toscaid idir an seangharda neamhpholaitiúil agus an faisean Poblachtánach/B.P.É (I.R.B.) sna míonna roimh an tionól. D'éirigh an Dr. Dubhghlas de hÍde, comhbhunaitheoir agus Uachtarán Chonradh na Gaeilge ó bunaidh é sa bhliain 1893, as an gcaothair sna seachtainí roimh na h-imeachtaí de bharr iarrrachtaí liomhnaíthe a rinne na radacaithe pholaitiúla chun an eagraíocht a pholaitiú agus drochtchlú a tharraingt ar a cheannaireacht. Ní raibh uair na faille do chinsealach na bPoblachtánach tagtha go fóill agus aithghadh de hÍde mar Uachtarán le hollghairdeas tar éis dó tacaíocht forleathan a fháil le linn an Oireachtais. Mar sin féin ba bhua bréagach a bhí ann do na measarthaigh i ndáiríre. Ní rabhtar in ann stad a chur le taidé chinsealach na bPoblachtánach de bharr dhinimic círéipeacha polaitiúla na blianta a bhí le theacht. Ag Oireachtas Dhún Dealgan 1915, chuir Conradh na Gaeilge a stádas neodrach traidisiúnta i leith na polaitíochta ar ceal, é ag dearbhu go raibh sé ar son an scarúnachais.

Ceann de ne rudá is suntasaí faoi Oireachtas agus Ard Fheis na Gaillimhe ná an méid teachtairí a bhí i láthair ann agus a chuairt ar aghaidh chun a bheith mar chuid de scothaimic pholaitiúil agus mhíleata Réabhlóid na hÉireann 1916-1923, agus go deimhin an stát neamhspleách Éireannach a saolaíodh dá bharr. Is ionann le 'Who's Who' den 'réabhlóid atá le theacht' é an grúpgriangraf stairiúil seo; tá suas le leath de shinitheoirí Fhorógra 1916 (Pádraig Mac Piarais, Seán Mac Diarmada and Éamonn Ceannt ina measc) chomh maith le triúr fear a bheadh ina Uachtarán ar Éirinn (Dubhghlas de hÍde, Seán T. Ó Ceallaigh agus Eamon de Valera) i láthair ann.