



Launch of exhibition

## Exhibition collaboration between The John Paul II Library, Maynooth University

## Kildare Library and Arts Service and The Teresa Brayton Heritage Group



Entrance to Old Bog Road

### New Exhibition area

In August 2014 the John Paul II Library hosted a major exhibition outlining the life and work of Teresa Brayton in the foyer of the new library extension. The Maynooth branch of Kildare Library and Arts Service lent the Teresa Brayton archive to the John Paul II Library in order to mount the exhibition. Staff personnel from both institutions are also members of the Teresa Brayton Heritage Group. This relationship facilitated co-operation and enhanced the success of the exhibition.



## TERESA BRAYTON (1868-1943) Poet and Literary Nationalist

*To strengthen engagement with communities, civil society  
and public bodies*  
Maynooth University Strategic Plan 2012-2017

### Collaborators

- The John Paul II Library provided staff, time and space in a dedicated exhibition area and expertise in mounting an exhibition
- Kildare Library and Arts Service provided the archive and help with funding in order to make the exhibition possible
- The Teresa Brayton Heritage Group through having a member in both institutions who were familiar with her life and work collaborated in order to mount the exhibition

### Benefits

- Collaboration between two institutions
- Use of each others resources and facilities
- The Teresa Brayton Heritage Group could avail of the opportunity to promote the memory of Teresa Brayton
- Interested members of the public could view the exhibition

### The Teresa Brayton Heritage Group

Over the years the Teresa Brayton Heritage Group has embarked on many projects with the support of Kildare County Council including republishing a selection of her poetry and short stories, organising signs and information panels at the top of the Old Bog Road

### Life and times of Teresa Brayton

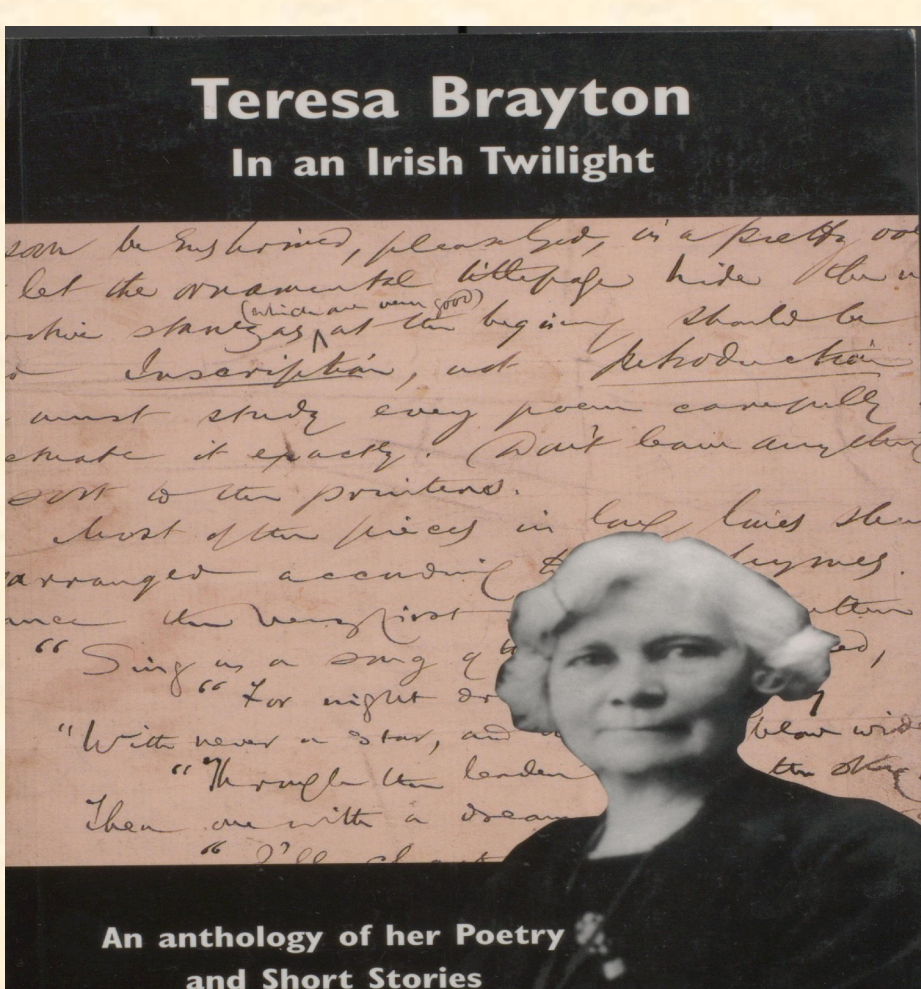
Teresa Brayton was born Teresa Boylan in 1868 in Kilbrook, Co. Kildare. She emigrated to America in 1895 and in 1901 she married Richard Brayton. The main themes of her poetry are the exile's nostalgic loss of homeland, nationalism, nature and religion. She is the author of the Old Bog Road which was later set to music and is her most famous poem. Teresa Brayton was personally acquainted with most of the leaders of the 1916 Rebellion and wrote poems in honour of several Irish patriots including Parnell, Casement and Pearse. Countess Markievicz sent her a chip of the flagstaff which flew over the GPO during the 1916 Rising "as a tribute to your beautiful verses that are an inspiration to lovers of freedom and justice". Teresa Brayton returned permanently to Ireland in 1932 aged 64. Éamon de Valera who was Taoiseach at the time of her death in 1943 attended her funeral and later as President unveiled a memorial cross over her grave in 1959.



Sheet music for  
The Old Bog Road



Information panel at  
The Old Bog Road



Unveiling of memorial cross by  
President de Valera in 1959

Collaboration also occurred in 1959 when Fr. Sean Corkery was Librarian of St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. At the time of the unveiling he was a member of Muintir na Tire who organised the erection of the memorial cross and was chosen to respond to the President's speech.



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