

Slane History & Archaeology Society

hosts

JOHN CASSIDY EXHIBITION

SCULPTOR/ARTIST: 1860-1939



On 12, 13, 14th July 2013

In Conyngham Arms Hotel, Slane



His Last Work of Art

In early 1939 John Cassidy suffered a stroke and was admitted to St. Joseph's hospital, Whalley Range, Manchester. While in the care of the nuns there, he worked on a bust of Pope Pius XI which he intended as a present for the Mother Superior of St. Joseph's Convent. Unfortunately he passed away before this last piece of sculpture was completed. It is believed that his students finished the bust but its location to date is unknown.

John Cassidy is buried in Southern cemetery, Manchester.



IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
JOHN CASSIDY
SCULPTOR
DIED 18TH JULY 1939
AGED 79 YEARS.
HIS HANDS FASHIONED
THE BEAUTY HE SAW.

The headstone on his grave and inscription

Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a anam.
May he rest in peace.

Fáilte/welcome

Cuireann Cumann Staire agus Seandálaíochta Bhaile Shláine fíorchaoim fáilte roimh gach duine agus go mór mhór roimh cuairteoirí as tíortha thar lear. Slane History & Archaeology Society extends a warm welcome to all and especially to visitors from overseas.

Official Opening: Fri. 12th July, 8pm by

Dr. Paula Murphy

Dr. Murphy is a senior lecturer in Art History at UCD. She is a leading expert on Irish sculpture and has published widely on the subject.

Charlie Hulme

Charlie Hulme, formerly of John Rylands Library, Manchester, will give an illustrated talk on Cassidy. Charlie, who for many years has extensively and assiduously researched Cassidy's life and works, published his findings recently. He, with some help from Elisabeth Nicolson of Shetland and Slane HAS, is chiefly responsible for creating, compiling and updating a comprehensive Cassidy website. [www.johncassidy.org.uk]



Bronze War Memorial



John Rylands
in white marble

Theology directing the labours of
Science and Art (shawk stone)



The Cassidy homestead in Littlewood, Slane, which is now demolished.

An extract from The Manchester Evening Chronicle

Monday; June 24th 1907

"Men Of Mark

Mr John Cassidy is very literally a man of mark, for he makes his reputation on model lines with a chisel. He is Manchester's noteworthy sculptor. He came here more than a quarter of a century ago and was a brilliant student at the School of Art winning five national medals.

At the Manchester Royal Jubilee Exhibition he was turned on to show the public the gentle art of making pictures in stone and in six months made 185 portrait busts of all sorts of people, plain and ugly, grave and gay, lively and severe. Practice, if it does not make perfect, at least makes for ease and Mr Cassidy had so much study of the human face that he was thereafter able to get a likeness in half an hour.

After the exhibition he went to Paris and continued his studies. He is still studying at his studio in Plymouth-grove for your true artist recognises that his education is never complete."