

ONLOOKERS IN FRANCE

Two Irish Artists and the First World War



'The Courtyard, Hôtel Sauvage, Cassel, Nord'
Sir William Orpen (1917)

A Talk by

PROFESSOR KEITH JEFFERY

MA, PhD, LittD (Cambridge), MRIA, FRHist
Professor of British History at Queens University Belfast
Postgraduate Coordinator for Modern History
Member of the Royal Irish Academy

Thursday 8th November 2012
at 20:00



KEITH JEFFERY is Professor of British History at Queen's University Belfast.

He was born and bred in Belfast, was educated there and in the USA, and at St John's College, Cambridge.

In 1998 he was Lees Knowles Lecturer in Military Science at Trinity College Cambridge, and in 2003-04 Parnell Fellow in Irish Studies at Magdalene College, Cambridge.

He does a considerable amount of media work, and in 2005 was a presenter on the Australian-Turkish-

Irish co-production, *Revealing Gallipoli*.

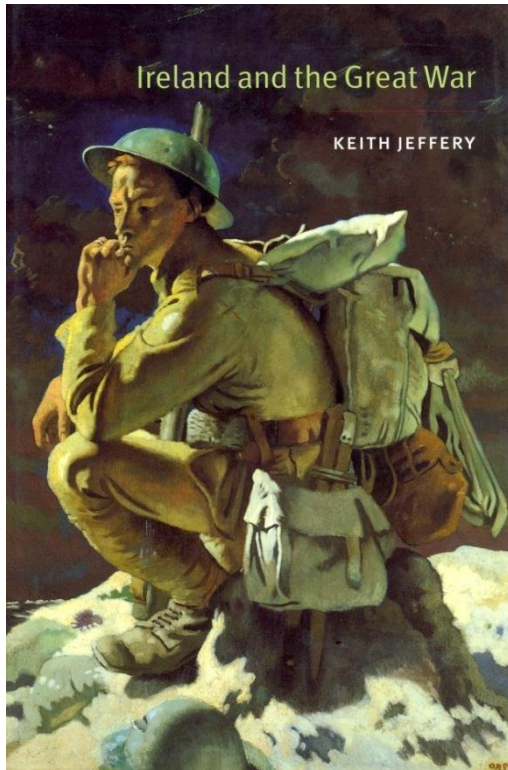
He is the author or editor of fourteen books, including *A Military History of Ireland*, *The GPO and the Easter Rising*, *Ireland and the Great War* (which the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, said 'offers a special insight into the Great War and its legacy in 20th-century Ireland, and is a must read for lovers of Irish history') and a prize-winning biography of Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson, the Irish-born Chief of the (British) Imperial General Staff who was assassinated in 1922.

In 2005 he was appointed to write the first official history of the Secret Intelligence Service and is the only historian ever to have had full access to the Service archives. *MI6: The History of the Secret Intelligence Service 1909-1949* was published in 2010 to wide critical acclaim.



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This illustrated talk will explore the activities of the Dublin-born Protestant, Sir William Orpen, and the Belfast-born Catholic, Sir John Lavery, who were both appointed Official British War Artists during the First World War.

Orpen painted an extraordinary range of canvases, from apparently idyllic landscapes of the Somme battlefield, to stunning portraits and sombre reflections of the destructive and dispiriting impact of the war on soldiers and civilians alike.

Lavery, who painted the 'home front' and the war at sea, also produced images of civilians in France in 1919.

The work of both artists reflects the political and social impact of the war in ways which still resonate almost a century later.



'German Wounded, Le Havre'
Sir John Lavery (1919)

BOOK SIGNING

A selection of Keith's books will be on sale after the lecture.
Price €15 to €20 each.
Sorry – no credit cards or cheques.

Entry €10 per person payable at the door.

RSVP

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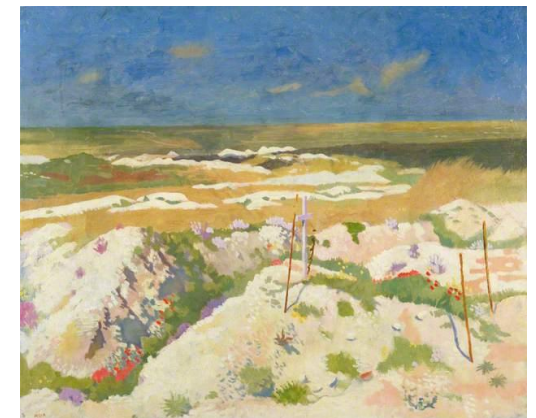
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'Grave and a Mine Crater, La Boisselle,
August 1917' - Sir William Orpen