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ELIZA LYNCH

Queen of Paraguay



A Talk by

Michael Lillis

&

Ronan Fanning

Friday 15 January 2016 at 19:30

ELIZA LYNCH, born in Charleville, County Cork in 1833, became the National Heroine of Paraguay. She met the future dictator General Francisco Solano López in Paris in January 1854 and remained with him until he and their eldest son were killed in front of her on the 1 March 1870, the last day of the most destructive war in the history of the Americas in which over 90% of the men and boys of Paraguay died. Theirs was a romantic and tragic love story of the damned.



During her lifetime, and for another generation, the beautiful and charismatic Eliza Lynch was the most famous and the most infamous woman in South America, even more so than Evita Perón a century later. 'I represent Scandal', she ruefully admitted. Paraguay, the landlocked but richest country in the region before the War of the Triple Alliance (1864-70) which was fought against the combined forces of

Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay, returned to the Stone Age.

Until recently, Eliza Lynch was forgotten in Ireland and throughout most of the world. The authors discovered the truth about her Irish origins and the cruel deception of her marriage at the age of sixteen to a duplicitous French Army officer. They carefully reconstructed the systematic invention by the enemies of Paraguay and by the local Hispanic elite of her reputation as a prostitute in Paris and as a cruel tyrant during the war.

Eliza Lynch was a courageous woman who was adored by the ordinary women of Paraguay and who tried to help many victims of the catastrophic war.

The paranoid López, on discovering that his family and colleagues had been conspiring against him, trusted only Eliza.

The authors' research, over fifteen years in twenty countries, revealed why the Emperor of Brazil, against the advice of his generals, pursued López to his death in 1870; Eliza buried him and their eldest son in the jungle with her bare hands.

She escaped to Europe after the war and died 'a burnt-out case' in Paris on 25 July 1886. Today she is revered in her country of adoption.

MICHAEL LILLIS is a former Irish diplomat who played a leading role in negotiating the Anglo-Irish Agreement on Northern Ireland of 1985. For the past two decades, he has pursued business interests in Latin America.

PROFESSOR RONAN FANNING is one of Ireland's leading modern historians and Professor Emeritus of Modern History at University College Dublin. His most recent books are *Fatal Path: British Government and Irish Revolution 1910-1922* (Faber & Faber, 2013) and *Eamon De Valera – A Will to Power* (Faber & Faber, 2015), both of which were short-listed as Non-Fiction Book of the Year in the Irish Book Awards.

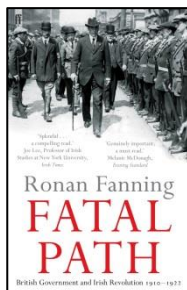
Their joint book *Eliza Lynch – Queen of Paraguay* was first published as *Scandal and Courage – the Lives of Eliza Lynch* in 2009, republished with this new title in 2014 and published in six editions in Spanish as the best-selling *Calumnias* and in Brazilian Portuguese as *Calunia*.

It has been made into a film with the new title by Director Alan Gilsean, produced by COCO TV Dublin and screened at international film festivals in Dublin, London, Guadalajara (Mexico),

Montevideo, Asunción, Cali and Seattle where it won First Prize for Dramatised Documentary.

Eliza Lynch – Queen of Paraguay can be purchased on [Amazon UK](#), [Amazon France](#) and [Amazon USA](#). The authors will be delighted to sign copies you bring to the lecture.

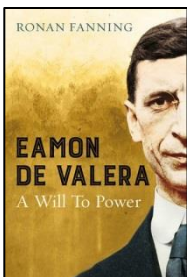
BOOKS ON SALE AFTER THE TALK



Ronan Fanning

Fatal Path: British Government and Irish Revolution, 1910-1922

Price EUR 16
Paperback



Ronan Fanning

Eamon de Valera: A Will to Power

Price EUR 28.50
Hardback

BOOKS: Cash or cheques only.
Sorry, no credit cards.
You may reserve your book(s)
in advance.

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Entry 10 EUR per person
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