

# REPORTING REVOLUTION

WHAT THE NEWSPAPERS SAID

## NPHFI EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

UCD Humanities  
Institute,  
Friday and  
Saturday,  
November  
13/14, 2015

### Registration

1-day rate:  
€40/€20 (student/unwaged)  
2-day rate:  
€70/€30 (student/unwaged)  
To register or to seek further  
details contact Oliver O'Hanlon at  
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THE printing presses of the *Freeman's Journal* newspaper were destroyed on March 29th, 1922, by a raiding party of armed men acting on the orders of leaders of the wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) opposed to the 1921 Anglo-Irish Treaty. This action was carried out because of a report in the *Freeman* of the Army Convention meeting at which the anti-Treatyites in the IRA finally repudiated the authority of the Dáil and broke ranks with their erstwhile army colleagues who supported the Treaty. The anti-Treatyites, as justification for destroying the *Freeman's* plant, claimed that the

report had been misleading.

The cartoon reproduced here appeared in the first issue of the *Freeman* when it resumed normal publication on April 22nd, 1922. It shows a phoenix rising from the ashes of the wrecked *Freeman* plant, holding a copy of the newspaper aloft in its beak. It is a highly accomplished drawing, and the fact that the phoenix is depicted breaking through the top border of the cartoon – an unusual feature – conveys graphically the newspaper's sense of triumph in its swift resurrection. There is no caption and no title, for the cartoon is self-explanatory.

It is signed 'Shemus', the nom de plume of the *Freeman's* regular political cartoonist, Ernest Forbes (1879–1962), an English artist who came to Ireland in 1920 to work for the newspaper. He contributed over 300 cartoons to the *Freeman* between 1920 and 1924, and he was later well known in London and in his native Yorkshire for his landscapes and portraits – both drawings and oil paintings.

For further information about Ernest Forbes, see Felix M. Larkin, 'Terror and discord: the Shemus cartoons in the *Freeman's Journal*, 1920-1924' (Dublin, 2009).

### KEYNOTE ADDRESSES:

#### Maurice Walsh

'Treading the Righteous  
Path of History':  
Journalists in Revolutions

□ Dr Walsh's latest book is  
'Bitter Freedom - Ireland in a  
Revolutionary World 1918-1923'

#### Ronan Fanning

De Valera: the Emergence  
of the Public Man

□ Prof Fanning is Professor  
Emeritus of Modern History  
at UCD. His latest book is 'De  
Valera: A Will to Power'

### Committee

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