

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE

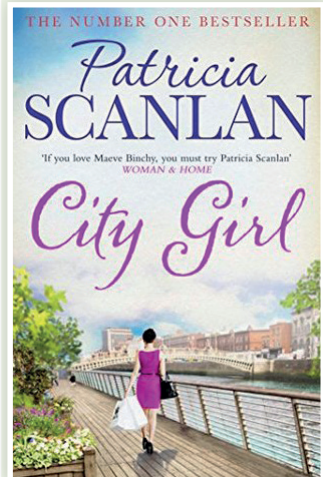
Librarians at work!



Through the centuries many unusual, famous and indeed some infamous people have worked in libraries.



Not surprisingly, many became writers, including some favourite Irish names.

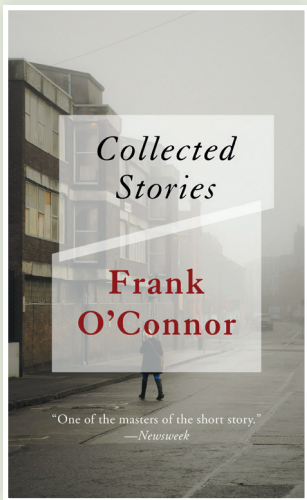


One of Ireland's best loved writers, Patricia Scanlan spent 17 years working with Dublin Public Libraries.

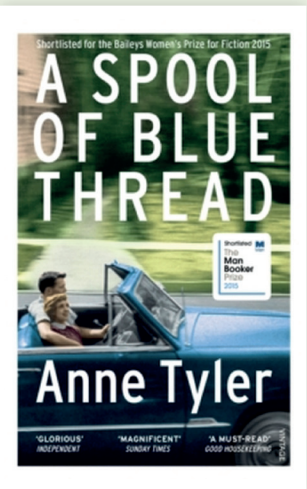
During this time she tried writing for Mills and Boon, without success. She thought about Maeve Binchy's advice to "write about what you know" and came up with

"City Girl" which went to No.1 in Ireland for 6 months! Patricia has been a mentor to several authors and is the Series Editor of the "Open Door" novellas, an award winning literacy project.

Frank O'Connor was the pseudonym of Michael O'Donovan, a Cork born playwright, novel-



ist and short story writer who worked as a librarian in Sligo, Cork and Dublin. His short story collections are much loved and often feature colourful, quirky and sometimes hilarious incidents which illuminate the Ireland of his time.



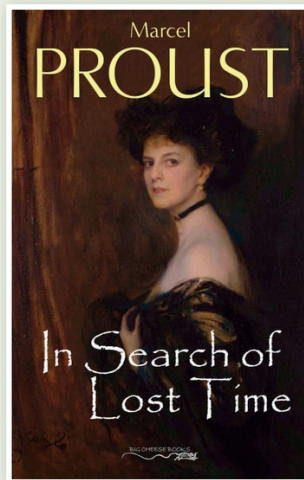
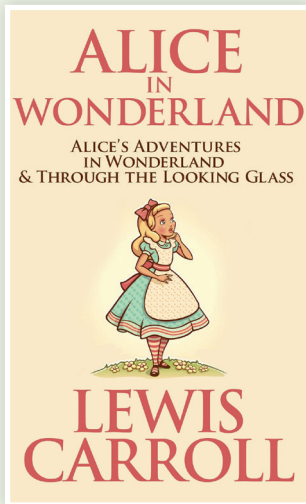
The award winning American author Anne Tyler worked as a bibliographer at Duke University in North Carolina and as a librarian at McGill University in Montreal. She tells a childhood story of walking home from school to the public library where her Father would collect her. A hurricane hit town as the school day was ending. By the time she reached the library Anne was soaked and battered. The 2 elderly librarians gave her a pair of dry socks, a cup of hot tea and settled her in a corner with a book!



She has never forgotten this and says this is not the only time she has been rescued by librarians! I love this story!



Lewis Carroll (real name Charles Dodgson) was at one time a librarian at Oxford University's Christ Church Library. Best known for the weird and wonderful "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking Glass" he was also a photographer and an exceptional mathematician.



Born in 1871, French novelist and critic Marcel Proust is considered to be one of the most influential authors of the 20th Century.

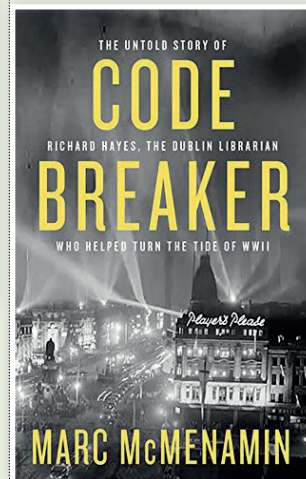
He studied at The Sorbonne and volunteered for a time as a librarian at the Bibliotheque Mazarine, the library originally created by Cardinal Mazarin in the 17th Century.

It is the oldest public library in France. Reading was essential to Marcel Proust and many of his characters read or speak in quotations.



His masterpiece "A la recherche du temps perdu" or "In Search of Lost Time" is available in Kilkenny libraries (in English only alas!)

You would never have thought that some of these people once worked among the bookshelves...



Richard Hayes was at one time Director of the National Library of Ireland. He was recruited by the Irish Intelligence Services to track the movements of Hermann Goertz, a Nazi spy. Richard cracked a code that helped turn the tide of World War II and his incredible story is told in the book "Code-breaker" by Marc Mc Menamin.

This is an exciting and well researched account of an extraordinary time when Dublin became a site of Nazi intrigue and the fate of an independent Ireland rested on the shoulders of a Dublin librarian.

Contact your own local famous librarians at any of our library branches. www.kilkennylibrary.ie

