**2000 SYMPOSIUM**

IASIL

On 5-6 May 2000 the **Royal Irish Academy** (Dawson St., Dublin) will hold a Symposium on 'Roger Casement in Irish and World History'. Mr. **Bertie Ahern**, the Irish Taoiseach, will open the Symposium while Dr. **Martin Mansergh** (Roinn na dTaoiseach) will close it with an address. Other speakers include **Seamus Ó Siochain** (Maynooth/NUI), Sir **John Hemming** (Pres. Royal Geographical Society); **Owen Dudley Edwards** (Edinburgh U.), and Lucy McDiarmid (Villanova U). Sessions include 'Casement's World View', 'Casement and Whitehall', 'The Trial for Treason' and 'Casement & Irish Nationalism'. **McDiarmid** is recent past-President of the American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS) and the author of a forthcoming book on Irish cultural controversies.

<http://www.iasil.org/archive/newsletter/archive/newsletter2000/conference_table/index.html#RIACasement>

THE TIMES

May 8 2000

<http://www.times-archive.co.uk/news/pages/tim/2000/05/08/timnwsnws01017.html>

FORENSIC science tests could determine if the British Secret Service forged diaries to smear the Irish revolutionary Sir Roger Casement before his execution for high treason.

Controversy continues to rage over the authenticity of the "black diaries", which detailed the alleged homosexual activities of Sir Roger, who was hanged in August 1916. The former British consul had tried to obtain aid from Germany for the Easter Rising against British rule in Ireland.

Many in the Republic revere Sir Roger as a fighter for independence and accuse the British of creating the diaries to slur his name and to destroy an appeal to spare his life.

The campaign for clemency attracted high-profile figures such as Joseph Conrad, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and George Bernard Shaw.

The proposal to use scientific tests was made at a conference on Saturday called by Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, who invited historians and experts in handwriting and forensic science to debate the issue. James Horan, a former head of the New York City Police Department laboratory, said that tests similar to those used on the Turin Shroud could show where the diaries were written.

The aim is to compare the writing in the "black diaries" with the "white diaries", an authentic log by Sir Roger of his journey to South America in 1910.