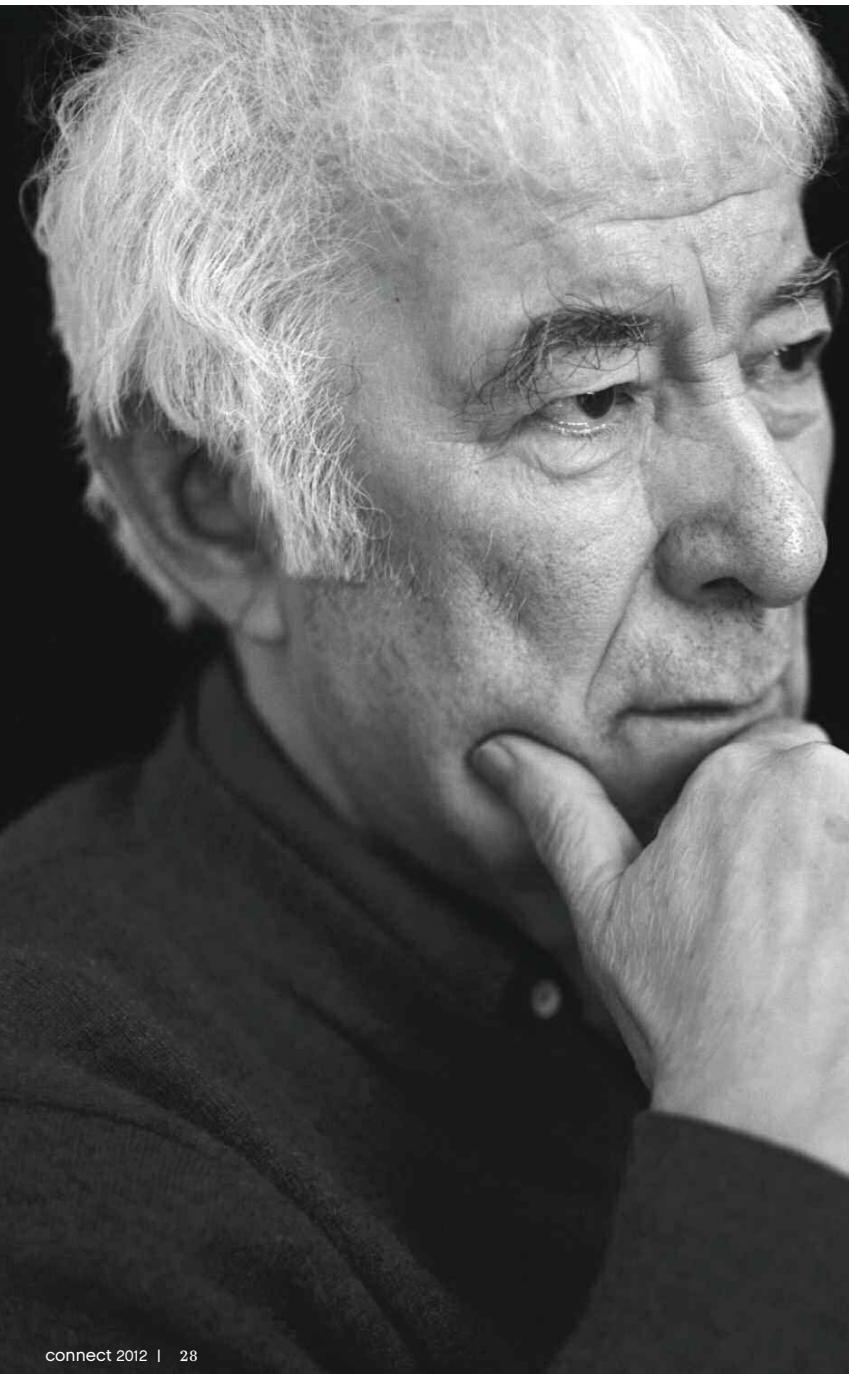


THE AWB VINCENT AMERICAN IRELAND FUND LITERARY AWARD

A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR NOBEL LAUREATE SEAMUS HEANEY



*History says, 'Don't hope
On this side of the grave',
But then, once in a lifetime
The longed for tidal wave
Of justice can rise up,
And hope and history rhyme.
So hope for a great sea-change
On the far side of revenge.
Believe that a farther shore
Is reachable from here.
Believe in miracles
And cures and healing wells.*

Seamus Heaney
THE CURE AT TROY



Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney accepting the Lifetime Achievement Award on the 40th Anniversary celebration of The AWB Vincent American Ireland Fund Literary Award

JUNE, 2012 A highlight of The 2012 Worldwide Ireland Funds Conference in Cork was the awarding of The Lifetime Achievement Award to Seamus Heaney. Mr. Heaney was the second recipient of the AWB Vincent American Ireland Fund Literary Award back in 1973 and has remained a dear friend to The Ireland Funds ever since. In June, before an audience of 250 donors and guests that included Taoiseach Enda Kenny and former US President Bill Clinton, Mr. Heaney thanked The Ireland Funds for their endorsement in the early days of his career and for the difference they had made to the work of Irish writers over the past 40 years. Below is a reflection on Seamus Heaney by Dr. Maurice Hayes.

When in 1973 the Trustees of the American-Irish Foundation made a modest award to the young Seamus Heaney, they displayed prescience, a critical acuity and a nose for a winner that was to be vindicated by the ultimate accolade of the Nobel Prize for Literature.

The first award had gone to the venerable Austin Clarke in recognition of a lifetime of service to poetry. For the second, the Trustees put their money on a young emerging talent—and what a talent that turned out to be. As a safe bet, it must have been the greatest racing certainty since Pegasus bounded down Parnassus bearing Poetry.

That award enabled the young poet to complete his important second collection, *North*, as he acknowledged in a prefatory note. Since then it has been The Ireland Funds (as

successors in title to the Foundation) who have been indebted to him—not only for the poetry, but for his friendship (which is equally legendary) and his willingness to oblige. Along with Marie, his constant Muse, he has been a familiar presence at events, a source of inspiration and encouragement, even in the darkest days, lighting the candle of hope. His tutelage and kindly monitoring over the years have helped maintain the standard, and the standing, of the Literary Award.

Of another beloved Irish writer of an earlier age who also managed to be a Citizen of the World while remaining firmly earthed in the soil of his native place, the great Dr. Johnson wrote that 'There is nothing which he touched which he has not adorned'.

WE CAN SAY NO LESS OF SEAMUS.
—Dr. Maurice Hayes

THE HISTORY OF THE AWB VINCENT AMERICAN IRELAND FUND LITERARY AWARD

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In 1972, Tom Jordan conceived for the American-Irish Foundation the notion of a bursary which would allow a promising young writer to devote a full year to her or his work. When the American-Irish Foundation and The Ireland Fund were merged, the Award, by then well established and well regarded, was continued.

The objectives of the Award are to give young writers a boost and creative space and also recognize those whose life-time contributions have enriched Ireland's cultural heritage.

Since 1972, The AWB Vincent American Ireland Fund Literary Award has established itself as one of the most important accolades given to Irish writers. Supported initially by Thomas F. O'Neil and family and since then by Maryon Davies Lewis, the Awards' honorees have been men and women of great artistry and creative skill whose work has given voice to Ireland's past and present, its delights and its sorrows. Since its inception, Award recipients have gathered an array of prestigious honors including, The Nobel Prize in Literature, The Man Booker Prize and Pulitzer Prize.

1972	Austin Clarke	1986	Seán Ó Faoláin and Hubert Butler	2000	Edna O'Brien
1973	Seamus Heaney	1987	Derek Mahon	2001	Tom MacIntyre
1974	Thomas Kilroy	1988	John B. Keane	2002	Dermot Healy
1975	John Banville	1989	Seamus Deane	2003	Marina Carr
1976	Dervla Murphy	1990	Michael Hartnett	2004	Paul Muldoon
1977	Aidan Higgins	1991	Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill	2005	William Trevor
1978	Paul Smith	1992	Frank McGuinness	2006	Eugene McCabe
1979	Mary Lavin	1993	Bryan McMahon	2007	Cathal Ó Searcaigh
1980	Benedict Kiely	1994	Eavan Boland	2008	David Park
1981	Brian Friel	1995	John Montague	2010	Colm Tóibín
1982	Michael McLaverty	1996	Michael Longley	2011	Colum McCann
1983	Richard Murphy	1997	Sebastian Barry	2012	Seamus Heaney
1984	Thomas McCarthy	1998	Medbh McGuckian		<i>(Lifetime Achievement Award)</i>
1985	John McGahern	1999	Brendan Kennelly		



Former US President Bill Clinton with 2012 Lifetime Achievement Awardee Seamus Heaney



The 39th Literary Award, 2011, Colum McCann.



Brendan Kennelly, Literary Award recipient 1999 with Sir Anthony O'Reilly and Seamus Heaney.



Marina Carr, Literary Award recipient 2003 and Loretta Brennan Glucksman.



Maryon Davies Lewis, William Trevor, Literary Award recipient 2005 and AWB Vincent.



Edna O'Brien, Literary Award recipient 2000.



John B. Keane, Literary Award recipient 1988.



AWB Vincent, Brian Friel, Literary Award recipient 1981 and US Ambassador William V. Shannon.