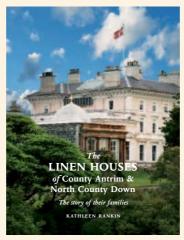
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The LINEN HOUSES of County Antrim & North County Down

The story of their families

DR KATHLEEN RANKIN MBE

GUEST SPEAKER
DR W.H. CRAWFORD

in the Christ Church Library Royal Belfast Academical Institution College Square East Belfast, BT1 6DL

Wednesday 21 November 2012 7.00pm for 7.30pm

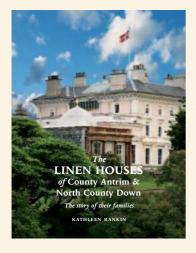
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y the late nineteenth century Belfast had developed into one of the great industrial cities in the British Isles. Much of this new found wealth was based on the manufacture of linen. The opulent lifestyle that came to be so characteristic of the great linen barons is reflected perhaps best of all in the houses they built. Many travelled from their imposing mansions in south east County Antrim, and in north County Down on the new railways which converged on Belfast. Others, particularly bleachers, lived in equally resplendent houses near the linen works they had already established, particularly on the Six Mile

Water, and on the River Main in County Antrim. Significant linen spinning mills existed in Comber, County Down, and Mossley, County Antrim, where their owners lived adjacent to their works.

This book provides an illustrated and informed commentary on the major linen families and their magnificent houses in County Antrim and north County Down. The images – exterior views of the actual houses, interior scenes of the stately rooms and portraits of their owners, many selected from the private collections of the families themselves - present tantalising and poignant glimpses of a bygone age, when Belfast was justifiably known as 'Linenopolis'.

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