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Invite you to the launch of

An Admiral's Eye View

SKETCHES OF IRELAND

by LORD MARK KERR

Anne Casement

SPEAKERS

THE HON HECTOR McDONNELL

ANNE CASEMENT

Thursday 9 December 2010

At 7.00pm

The Meter House

The Gasworks, Ormeau Road, Belfast

Refreshments Served

Parking available

RSVP

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Images of life in Ireland, particularly Ulster, in the first half of the nineteenth century are uncommon. And, because they depict sights both remarkably familiar and totally absent, are all the more valuable and poignant. Such is the historical value of the sketches of Lord Mark Kerr that are so faithfully and exquisitely reproduced in this volume.

Born in 1776, the third son of the 5th Marquess of Lothian, Kerr (pronounced 'Carr') served as a captain in the Royal Navy during the early part of the Napoleonic Wars, subsequently reaching the rank of Vice-Admiral. In 1799 he married Charlotte McDonnell who had inherited half of the McDonnell family's Antrim Estates. His regular visits to Ireland and his association with the management of his wife's estates provided Kerr with opportunities to record many of the local landmarks and scenes – including the Giant's Causeway, Dunluce Castle and Rathlin Island which, being a sailor, he sometimes sketched from a boat – and which feature so strikingly in this book.

In the Navy he had learned the essential skills of surveying and accurate depiction of coastal land profiles. These, added to his very considerable artistic abilities, are clearly evident in the range of sketches he made on his travels throughout Ireland. In Antrim, the castle and estate at Glenarm and the bustling towns of Ballymoney, Ballycastle and Portrush are all depicted as are well-known County Down scenes, including the Donaghadee–Portpatrick ferry crossing, as well as images from County Kildare.

As a collection, Kerr's sketches record features of Ireland that have long disappeared but which can be re-created by these very fine and sensitive drawings of the Irish, particularly Ulster, landscape and heritage.

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