

CARRICKFERGUS AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



JOHN LANGTRY-LYNAS (1879-1956)

In the middle of a week-day just before WW2, Langtry-Lynas, in a highly celebratory mood loudly accosted my father in Corn Market, Belfast whom he knew slightly demanding he buy a picture concealed in a brown paper parcel. In the circumstances my Father fished all out the money handing him six shillings and six pence whereupon Langtry-Lynas thrust the parcel under his arm and hurried off towards Mooneys then in Arthur Square. The picture was entitled *August Sunshine 1938 Victoria Park, Belfast* and depicts a path through deciduous trees, a wooden fence and a pond. To me it is most atmospheric and a family treasure. During the war the trees were cut down the place concreted over and Nissan huts added to become a camp for the refugee Belgian Army.

Langtry-Lynas was born of Ulster parents in Greenock and when he was three the family returned to Belfast. He was educated at Willowfield School on the Woodstock Road and then the Belfast Government School of Art situated in the North Wing of RBAI for a period. He exhibited paintings and sculpture at the Belfast Art Society from 1905 and in the 1920s and 30s he was exhibiting in Europe and locally and in fact won a prize for sculpture in Buenos Aires. In 1935 he published his second book entitled *Why* that contained thirty-six illustrations of his works including portraits of his sons, Dante and Rodin, as well as a portrait of Dr. Alexander Irvine, the author of *"My Lady of the Chimney Corner"* also a brief biography of the artist William Moore.

Langtry-Lynas continued working until the 1950s but needed the extra income so he took on extra work as a commercial work and was a sign writer for the Belfast Corporation. His life ended in 1956 at the Massereene Hospital, Antrim.

*Contributed by John Hulme with assistance of Charles Ludlow of the East
Belfast Historical Society*