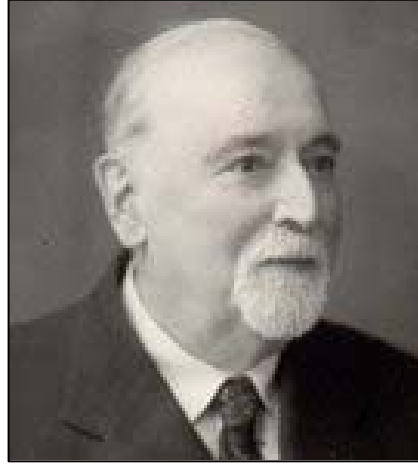


WATERFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Edmund Downey (1856-1937) - Journalist

Born in Waterford city in 1856, he was educated at the Catholic University School in his native city. He came to journalistic prominence when made editor of the London based Tinsley's Magazine. His cousin Richard Dowling was the editor of the magazine, and Downey would succeed him in the position until the closure of Tinsley in 1884. This would lead him to start a publishing company with an associate, and in 1890 going it alone. Furthermore, his own publishing company would print some of his own works under the alias F.M. Allen and reasonable priced editions of classic Irish tales. However, under the pseudonym of 'Dan Banim', his works being a satirical telling of history in *Through green glasses* and *Green as grass* would receive much notoriety at the end of the 19th century.

In 1906 he became the proprietor and editor of the *Waterford News*. Downey would also pen around twenty books which included the *Story Of Waterford* and a novel, *Clashmore*, which demonstrated his credentials as a serious writer. His paper would provide a medium for the growing nationalist movement of the early twentieth century, supporting Sinn Fein, which would lead Downey to have to 'lay low' for a period. Furthermore, he would become honorary treasury of Sinn Fein during the War of Independence, and later would support the anti-Treaty members of Sinn Fein, and subsequently an advocate of Fianna Fail when established by Eamon de Valera. He died on the 11th February 1937.

Cian Manning