

In 2016, Ireland will commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin, which was the catalyst of Irish independence and the emergence of the new Irish State. Argentina will in 2016 commemorate and celebrate the bicentenary of the signature of the Declaration of Tucuman on 9 July 1816 which established the independence of the Republic of Argentina.

This historical coincidence offers the opportunity for a shared commemoration and celebration of the historic links between both countries. It will provide for recognition of the support provided to Ireland by the large Irish-Argentine community at that time, and a celebration of the significant contribution by this community to the development of Argentina since the 19th century.

All those interested in the proposed programme, particularly members of the Irish Argentine community, are encouraged to participate and to forward suggestions for events to the following address:

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Irish migration to Argentina in the 19th century led to the creation in the early years of the 20th century of a strong Irish-Argentine community, with its own institutions and newspaper "The Southern Cross". The Easter Rising of 1916 evoked significant interest among the Irish community both in Buenos Aires and in other parts of the country where the Irish had settled. The text of the 1916 Proclamation, read from the General Post Office in Dublin and entitled "The Provisional Government of the Republic of Ireland to the People of Ireland", referred to the "support received from its exiled sons in America", a reference understood to include Argentina and the large Irish community there.

William Bulfin, the editor of "The Southern Cross", focused the attention of his readers on events in Dublin in the pages of the newspaper. His son, Eamon, who was born in Argentina, played a significant role in the Rising, hoisting the flag of the Republic on the roof of the GPO. Eamon Bulfin was later condemned to death, a sentence that was commuted owing to his birth in Argentina. Following the election of the first Dáil, it was decided in Dublin to send a diplomatic mission to Argentina with the appointment as Envoy of Laurence Ginnell TD, who played an active role in seeking political and financial support for the Republic, including through the issue of a Bond on the lines of that issued in the US. Argentina went on to become one of the first countries to recognize the new Irish State.

ARGENTINA-IRELAND 2016: A SHARED COMMEMORATION

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF THE EASTER RISING IN DUBLIN IN 1916 TOGETHER WITH THE BICENTENARY OF THE 1816 DECLARATION OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF ARGENTINA

ARGENTINA
IRELAND



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PLANNED EVENTS IN 2016

Pinamar Film Festival

In the context of the 1916 centenary commemoration, Ireland will be a special guest in the 12th Argentine-European Film Festival in Pinamar in early March 2016. In addition to other Irish films, the Festival will screen the major new documentary on the 1916 Rising narrated by the actor Liam Neeson.

St. Patrick's Day

The Irish Argentine community will commemorate the centenary of the Rising in the course of the annual St Patrick's Day celebrations organized in St Brigid's School in Buenos Aires by the Federation of Irish Argentine Societies. There will also be celebrations organized by various Irish groups such as the Fahy Club, the Hurling Club of Buenos Aires, and associations in many centres elsewhere in the country.

Buenos Aires City Commemorates Easter 1916

The Irish Embassy will host a special reception in central Buenos Aires to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising, and the contribution by the Irish community to the development of Argentina. In association with the Government of the City, there will be open-air events in Plaza San Martin in central Buenos Aires on Saturday 19 March which will include a Parade with representatives of Irish Associations, Schools and Clubs, and a concert featuring Irish and Argentine musicians and an on-stage recreation of the Rising and reading of the 1916 Proclamation. That weekend, a concert of Irish traditional music will take place in a theatre in central Buenos Aires. A sub-titled version of the new Irish documentary on the Easter Rising will be broadcast over the weekend on the Argentine Public TV channel.

Presentation of a book on "The Irish and the City of Buenos Aires"

A volume of photographs showing the history of the Irish influence and role in the City of Buenos Aires will be launched with the support of the Embassy and Banco Ciudad of Buenos Aires.

Gaelic Sports

A programme to develop Gaelic sports in Argentine Schools and Clubs is being developed, with the support of the GAA and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Argentina will again participate in the GAA World Games to be held in Ireland to mark the centenary of the 1916 Rising.

Irish Film Festival in Buenos Aires

A one-week Festival of Irish Film, including classics on the theme of the struggle for independence, will take place in association with the Argentine National Institute for the Audiovisual Arts (INCAA) in the Gaumont cinema complex in central Buenos Aires, and subsequently tour a number of INCAA cinemas elsewhere in the country.

International Conference: "Sovereignty in the 21st Century – Ireland and Argentina in a Multi-polar World"

This conference, organized jointly with the Argentine Council on Foreign Relations (CARI) and the Institute for International and European Affairs in Dublin (IIEA), will focus on future political and economic relations between Ireland and Argentina.

Irish Theatre Festival

A week of dramatized readings by Argentine actors in a theatre in Buenos Aires of classic and contemporary works by Irish playwrights.

Roger Casement in South America

An exhibition on the life and times of Roger Casement, the Irish nationalist and human rights defender, including his role in South America in defence of indigenous peoples abused in the rubber-industry of the late 19th century. It is hoped this exhibition will travel to various parts of Argentina.

An Exhibition of Irish Treasures in the National Library of Argentina

In association with the Irish Embassy, the National Library in Buenos Aires will host a major exhibition of the hundreds of volumes in its

collections of works by Irish and Irish-Argentine authors, including those volumes (some annotated) which influenced celebrated Argentine writers such as Jorge Luis Borges.

Chair of Irish Studies at the University Del Salvador in Buenos Aires

The newly established Chair of Irish Studies will host a Symposium, in association with the University of Notre Dame in the US, on historical and contemporary cultural links between Ireland and Argentina, and with Latin America. A volume of the history of relations between Ireland and Argentina will be launched at the Symposium, together with an exhibition on Ireland's relationship with Latin America, including on the role of the Irish in Latin American independence.

Competition "Ireland in Stories"

A competition (in Spanish) for children on Irish themes, including on Irish mythological characters and stories, organised by the Admiral Brown Irish-Argentine Society.

Essay Competition: Ireland in words

Creative writing essay competition, (in English) organised by St. Brendan's College, with prizes donated by the Irish Embassy, involving children from many Argentine schools with special connections to Ireland, involving pupils from schools with connections to Ireland (prizes to be presented by the Irish Embassy)

Digital Art Competition: "Irish Immigration and Argentina"

Organised by the Irish Catholic Association, a digital art exhibition for primary and secondary school students.

Concert of Classical Music

Towards the end of 2016, a special concert of classical music by a celebrated Irish musician will take place in Buenos Aires.