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Training flights complaint

THE TOTAL amount of revenue received from Concorde crew training at Shannon last year was £7,500, according to Mrs. B. Makowski, the IRSP representative on the Shannon Alliance Committee. While stressing that in no way was she against crew training at Shannon, Mrs. Makowski told an Alliance meeting on Tuesday night that Aer Rianta should strictly enforce the regulations governing training flights.

Details of the proposed crew training programme for the coming year were revealed at the meeting. The Air France Concorde will train at Shannon for 10 days each month during March, April, May and June.

"I am not against these crew training flights," said Mrs. Makowski. "We need the money this business generates. However, our environment and children will have to be protected."

"Planes are, by law, required to fly over 1,500 feet during training. Some of them don't. The windows in some houses shatter when these training flights pass over and Aer Rianta must ensure that this does not happen in future."

On next Wednesday, Mr. Sylvester Barrett will receive a delegation from the Alliance committee to discuss the proposed establishment of a local authority for Shannon town.

New York Limerickmen

The officers of the Limerick Men's Benevolent and Social Association, New York, for 1978, are: Thomas Madigan, president; Michael Houlihan, vice-president; Daniel F. Hennessy, recording secretary; Michael A. Hickey, financial secretary; Patrick Conway, treasurer; John Mackessy, guard; William Geary, William Murphy, David M. O'Callaghan, trustees; Michael Butler, Liam Madden, Edmund Barrett, directors.

The association will sponsor its fifth St. Patrick's annual dinner-dance on Friday evening, 17th March next, at Queen Terrace, 69th Street and Roosevelt Avenue, Woodside, New York.

Michael A. Hickey is the chairman.

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What price poetry? £3.50 for three pages of Hartnett

BY JIMMY WOULEF

COUNTY LIMERICK poet, Michael Hartnett, has made literary history: he is the first author to have a hard-back to his name which contains only three pages of text.

While authors all over the world bombard publishers with reams of scripts, the unassuming Newcastle West man has motivated a top U.S. publisher to reproduce two short poems.

Signed copies

And the limited edition of 250 signed copies, at £3.50 "The Prisoners," the latest of nine books, penned by Michael, is jointly published by the Deerfield Press, Mass., U.S.A., and the Gallery Press, Ireland. And he revealed this week that he sold the copy-right for only £60.

The book contains two poems, "Maiden Street Wake," and "The Prisoners." "Maiden Street Wake" deals with the wake of a child in Maiden Street, Newcastle West, which Michael attended as a boy.

Mid-sixties

"I wrote these two poems in the mid-sixties when I was writing in English. Since then I have turned to writing in Irish exclusively. Gabriel Fallon of the Gallery Press came upon these two poems when he was going through an old suitcase in my house," said Michael.

He added: "It is a great flip to one's confidence to see publishers going ahead with a hard back with such a small number of poems."

Only 50 of the 250 copies will be available in this

Michael Hartnett PRISONERS

The "mini" book.

country—the remainder having been ordered in the U.S. where Michael has lectured extensively.

And this week he made a special presentation of one copy to Newcastle West publican, Mr. Michael Kelly of the Ten Knights Inn.

"Each copy is signed and when I was doing this extra-curricular pen work, Michael Kelly put the back parlour of his bar at my disposal and administered some expertly filled pints of Guinness," explained Michael.

In 1974 Michael's "Farewell to English" was launched at Writers' Week in Listowel and since then he has written all his poems in Irish.

He has only one complaint to register with the publishers of his latest book. "The cover design includes a drawing of the bull on the Irish 5p. But the bull on my book does not appear to be endowed with the same masculine features as those on the animal on the coin. I feel this is just another American cover-up."



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