

A welcome to all-Irish

□ WORDS: JIMMY WOULFE
□ PICTURES: DERMOT LYNCH

POET, Michael Hartnett burnt up a lot of ink on Friday night last without penning one line of poetry.

As he autographed scores of copies of his latest book, "Adharca Broic", which was launched at the Central Hotel, Newcastle West, he was acclaimed by his own neighbours and townspeople.

This is Michael's twelfth book and his first with all Irish poems. The book is published by the Gallery Press.

Language he loves

The ceremony was more than a launching. It was a tribute to the quiet-spoken writer who three years ago made a firm decision to write in the one language he loves — Irish.

His statement of intent was set out at that time in his book appropriately titled "A Farewell to English".

As Sean Mac Reamoinn, who launched "Adharca Broic", said: "The act of poetry is a rebel act. And when Michael Hartnett's poetic conviction drove him to bid farewell to English I think I could say, no law, no duty made him, no public men or clergy or crowds, but a lonely impulse of delight. He did it because it seemed to him as a poet to be the right thing to do."

Mr. Mac Reamoinn said we were setting on a course of bilingualism and we must

work towards a pluralism which would not be just related to acts of parliament, but which came from the poetry of Michael Hartnett and the music of Sean O'Riada.

Ireland, he said, was never as much herself than when in the Europe of the Middle Ages and he expressed the hope that she would be more herself in the enlarged modern Europe.

Mr. Peter Fallon recalled that when Michael Hartnett made his decision as he set out in his book "A Farewell to English" it aroused a lot of controversy. But it struck him that these arguments were irrelevant because it was a type of statement which a man should be allowed make in a free country. Now, three years later, Mr. Fallon said he was proud to be the publisher of Michael's first book of Irish poems.

Sculpture exhibition

Earlier in the evening, Mr. Mac Reamoinn opened a sculpture exhibition at the local library titled "Irish Mythology in Contemporary Sculpture".

Both launchings were organised by the local area arts co-ordination committee, under Mr. Michael White, assisted by arts officer for the region, Mr. Paul Funge.

The local committee have every reason to feel very happy at the success of both the opening and the book launching.



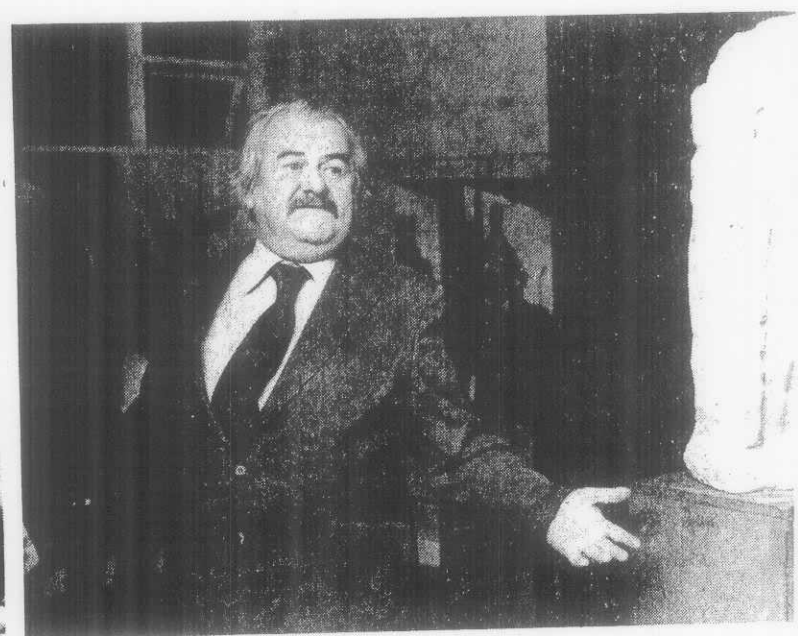
Michael Hartnett (right) at the launching with his father, Mr. Denis Hartnett, and his children, Lara and another child.



Mr. and Mrs. Barney Keating (left) and Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Cussen, from Newcastle West, at the sculpture exhibition.



At the launching of Michael Hartnett's book were members of his family (from left): Mrs. Peg Kelly, Templeglantine, Mrs. Margaret Hartnett, Mrs. Josie Welsh and Mrs. Bridget Hartnett.



Mr. Sean Mac Reamoinn opens the sculpture exhibition.

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Limerick model trains speed to success

BY LEADER REPORTER

Limerick-made model trains are speeding to success this Christmas.

For many many years parents and, indeed, children, have expressed their disappointment each festive season with the narrowness of the range of quality of Irish toys available in the shops.

But Christmas 1978 has seen the introduction of the Jouef range of model trains which are

