



***THE STRANGE HISTORY OF THE
IRISH DONKEY***

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***Paper presented at the Hydra Mule
and Donkey Conference, Hydra,
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Thomas Roberts, Gallery of the Masters, A Bay Horse and two Donkeys



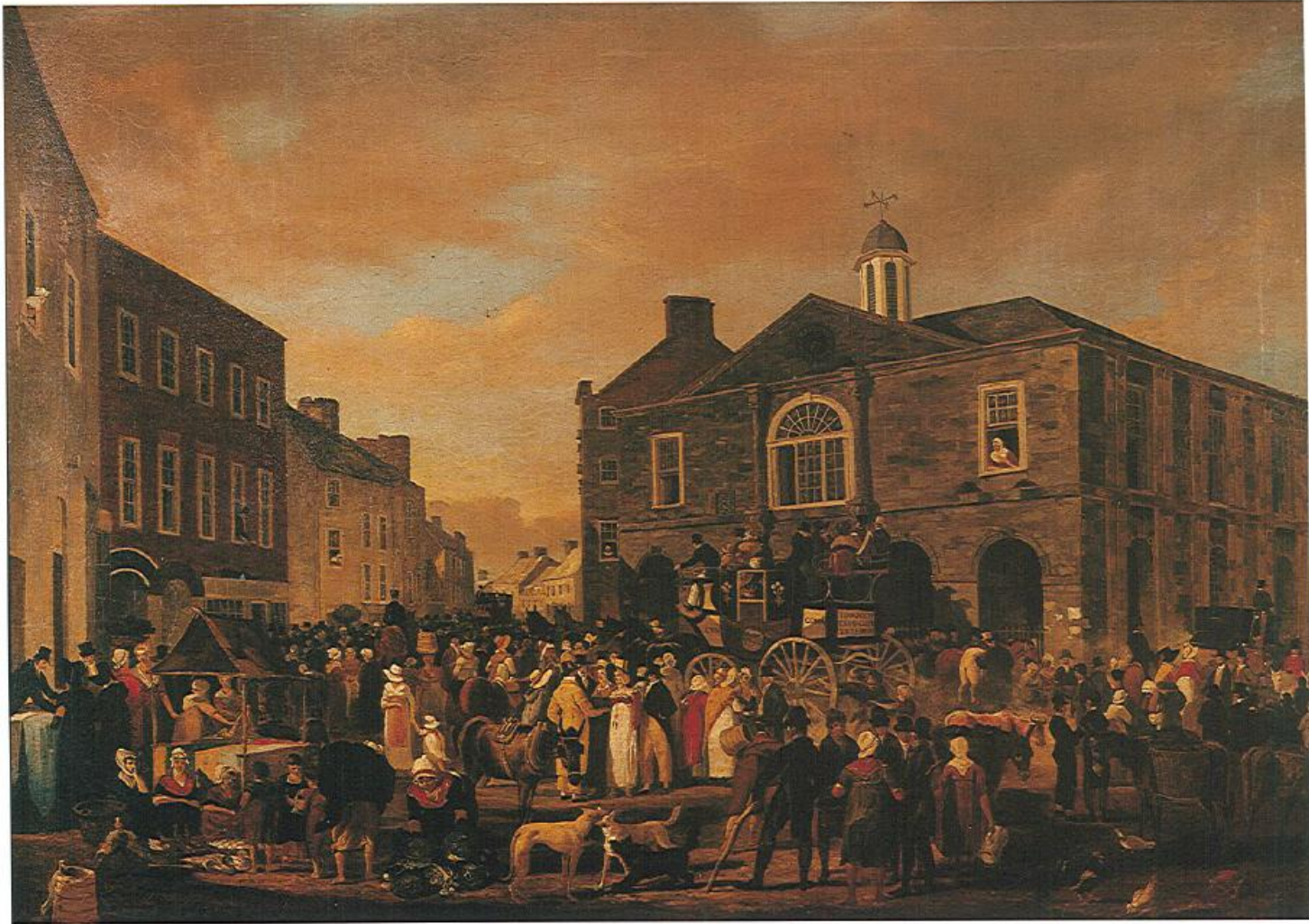
Nathaniel Grogan, An Irish Fair, c.1780



Joseph Peacock, The Pattern at Glendalough, 1813

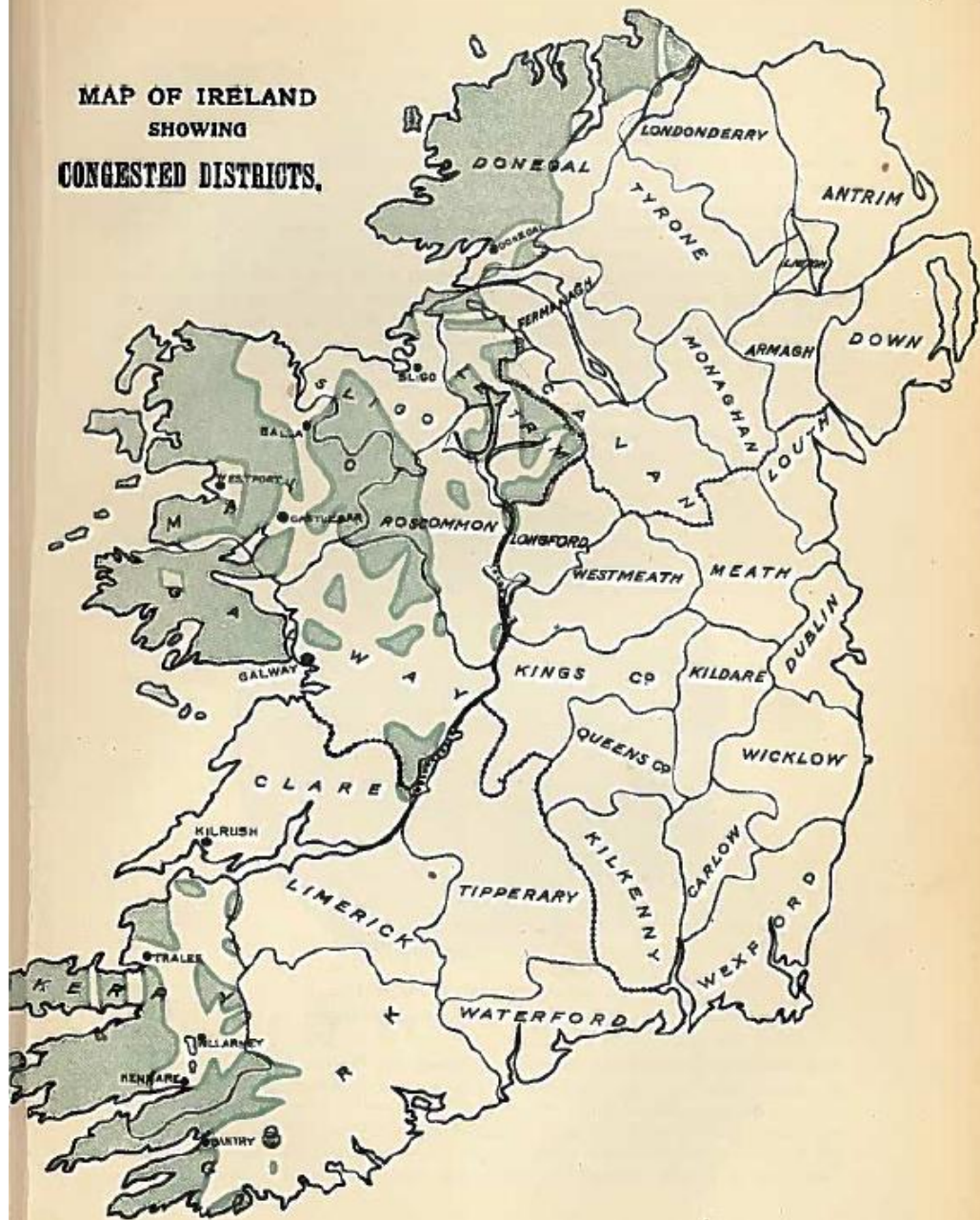


Westport House and Quay (1818) by James Arthur O'Connor (1792-1841) © Westport House



William Turner de Lond, Fair at Ennis, Co. Clare, 1820

**MAP OF IRELAND
SHOWING
CONGESTED DISTRICTS.**



Congested
Districts Map

DISTRIBUTION OF MULES AND ASSES BY PROVINCE (000) 1871

	MULES	ASSES	POPULATION	RATIO TO POP
LEINSTER	7.1	48.7	1.3 M	1:30
MUNSTER	6.4	48.7	1.3M	1;30
ULSTER	1.8	24.7	1.8M	1:80
CONNAUGHT	4.3	58.2	850	1:14.5
TOTAL	20	180	5.4M	1:80



Factory-made cart, Kerry, 1960s

**A BRIEF LIST OF TASKS CARRIED OUT BY THE
HUMBLE DONKEY IN THE WEST (image 11)**

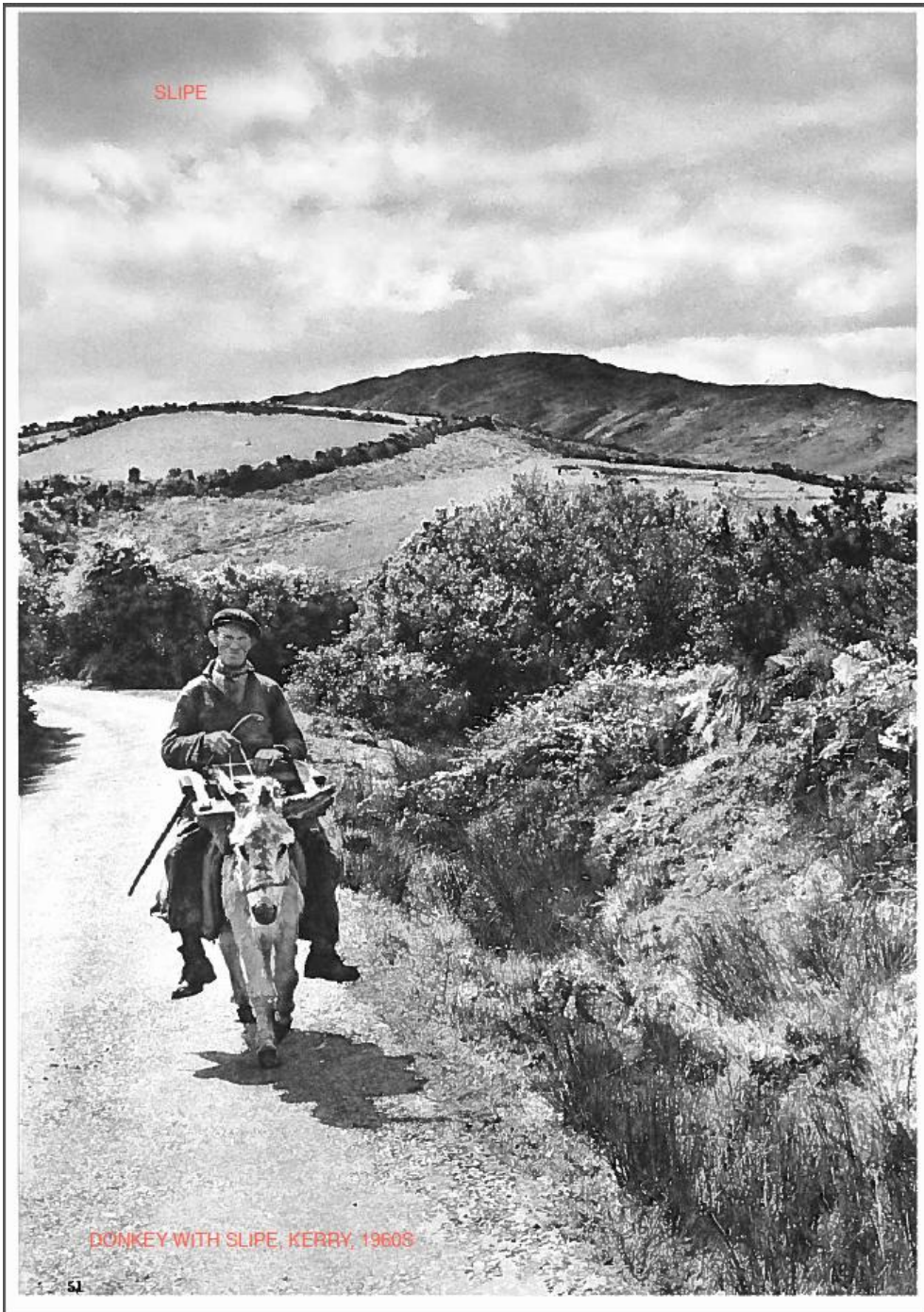
- CLEARING ROCKY FIELDS
- MOVING TURF FROM BOGS
- PLOUGHING
- TRANSPORT, MANURE, POTATOS, MILK TO
CREAMERY ETC.
- MOVING SEAWEED/SAND/ SHELLS AS FERTLISER
AND CASH CROP¹⁵
- PERSONAL/FAMILY TRANSPORT
- FAMILY PETS, RECREATION.
- GRINDING CORN

mind: “The like of us will not be seen again”.



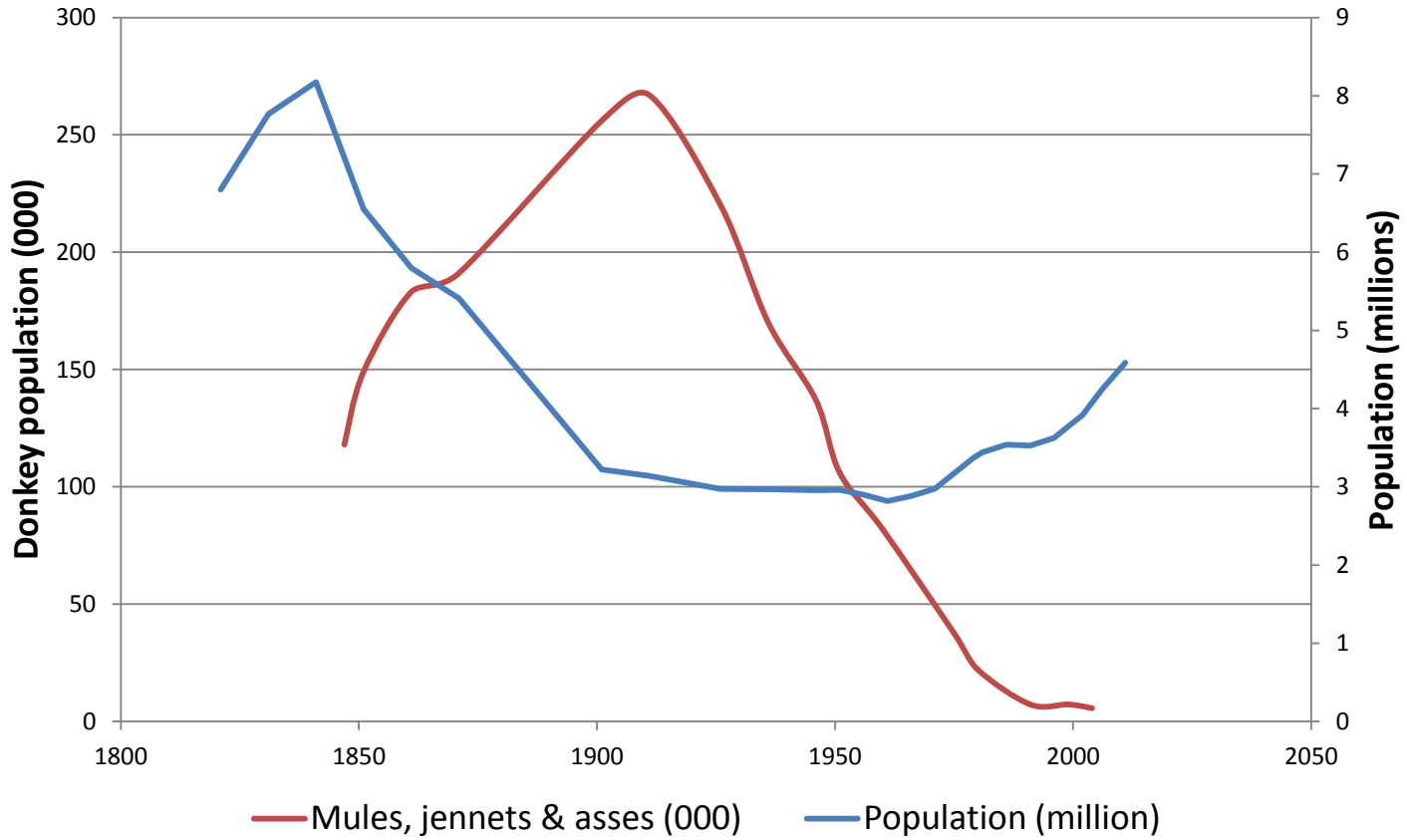
Basket woman with ass and panniers, village in the background.

Basket woman with ass (JMS)



Donkey with slipe, Kerry, 1960s

Donkey and human population graph





Donkey export trade,
Waterford, 1898

The donkey export trade at Waterford 1897. Here the donkeys are being driven from the railway station to the docks.

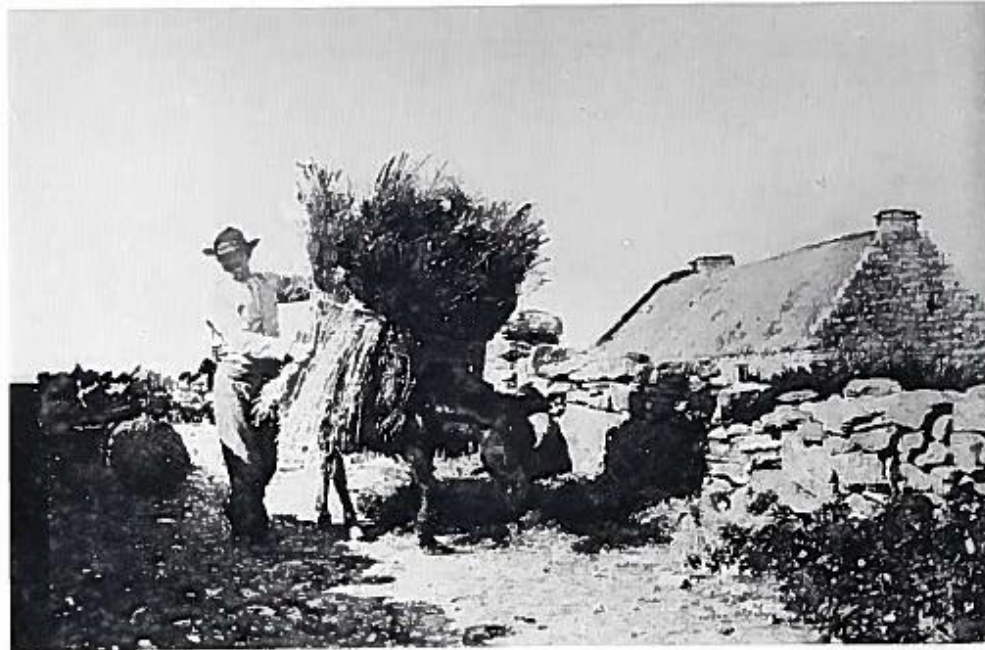
Poole W.P.822



An Aran Pony with Harness (JMS)



Loading Seaweed on Aran (JMS)



Inis Mór, c.1900



Postcard, c.1900

Going To Market



The Blaskets (JMS)

47 Cottages above An Tráigh Bhán (The White Strand), on the Great Blasket Island. In 1905 Synge stayed with his host 'The King' in one of the highest of the cottages.



Humanity Dick, Trial of Bill Burns

for a drink of water; the girl advanced, dropt a curtsy, while she presented the pitcher, and said, "Wishing it was wine."*



GALWAY PEASANT WOMAN.

* These courteous and poetical wishes are of every-day hearing, and some of them are quite oriental. "God grant you to be as happy as the flowers in May"—"The Almighty shower down blessings on your head day and night"—"God grant you a long life, and a happy death"—"God's fresh blessing be about you"—"May your bed be made in Heaven"—"The blessings of God be with you ever and always"—"May the light of Heaven shine on your grave"—"May the sun never be too hot, nor the wind too cold for you"—"May the smile of the Lord light you to

Certainly Galway abounds in picturesque women. Their long graceful limbs move with so much ease, and the cloak—so truly the shroud of all untidiness,



GALWAY PEASANT WOMAN AND CHILD.

glory." These, and a hundred others, are surely as beautiful as any orientalisms, quoted as models of expression. We were never more impressed by their effect than while in Connamara; where certainly nature is more completely free than in other parts of the island.



Franco-British Exhibition, 1908

Irish Village Colleens,
Ballymachinton,
Franco-British Exhibition,
London, 1908



Franco-British
Exhibition, 1908



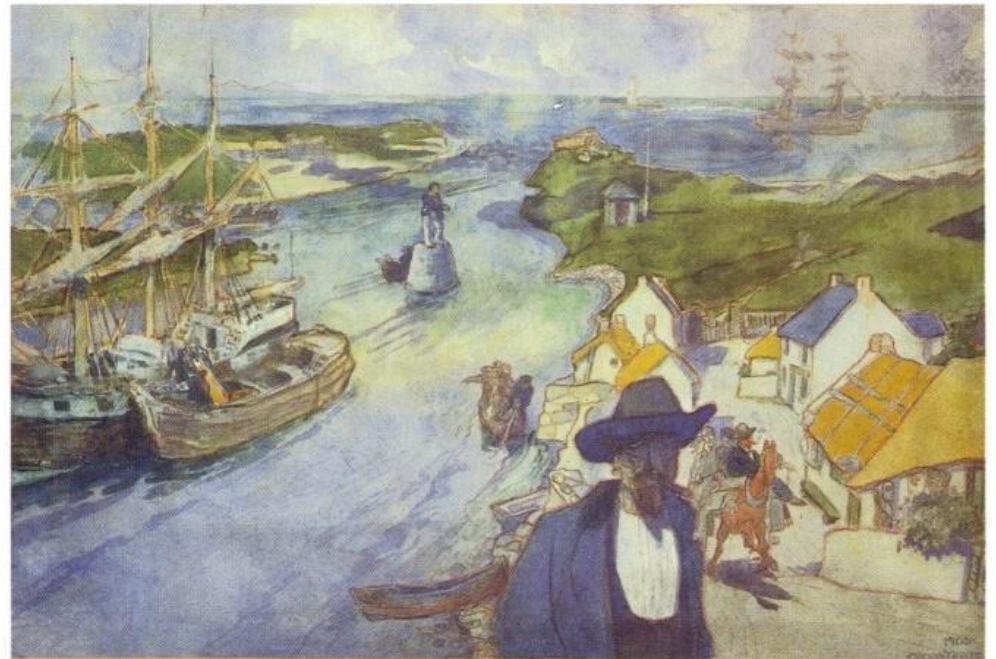
PAUL HENRY, CONNEMARA LANDSCAPE C.1915

Paul Henry, Connemara Landscape, c.1915



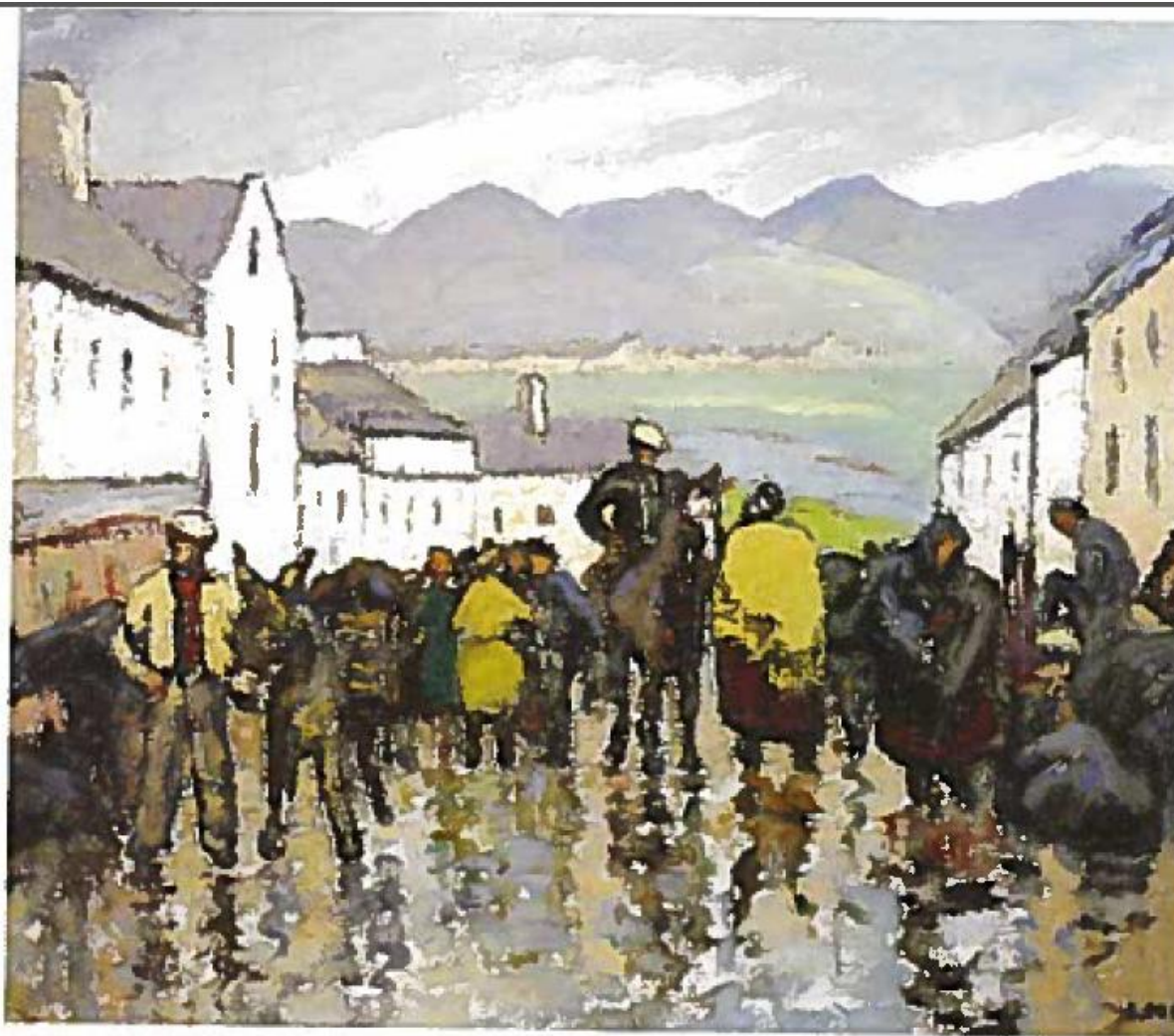
11. A Long Team, 1899 (no. 161)

Jack B Yeats, A Long Team, 1899



12. Memory Harbour, 1900 (no. 206)

Jack B Yeats, Memory Harbour, 1900



Letitia Hamilton, A
Fair Day, Clifden,
c.1930

65. Letitia Marion Hamilton RHA (1878-1964)

A Fair Day, Clifden

Oil on canvas, 50 x 61 cm

Signed with initials



77. Lillian Lucy Davidson ARHA (1879-1954)

When the Day is Done

Oil on canvas, 45.75 x 61 cm

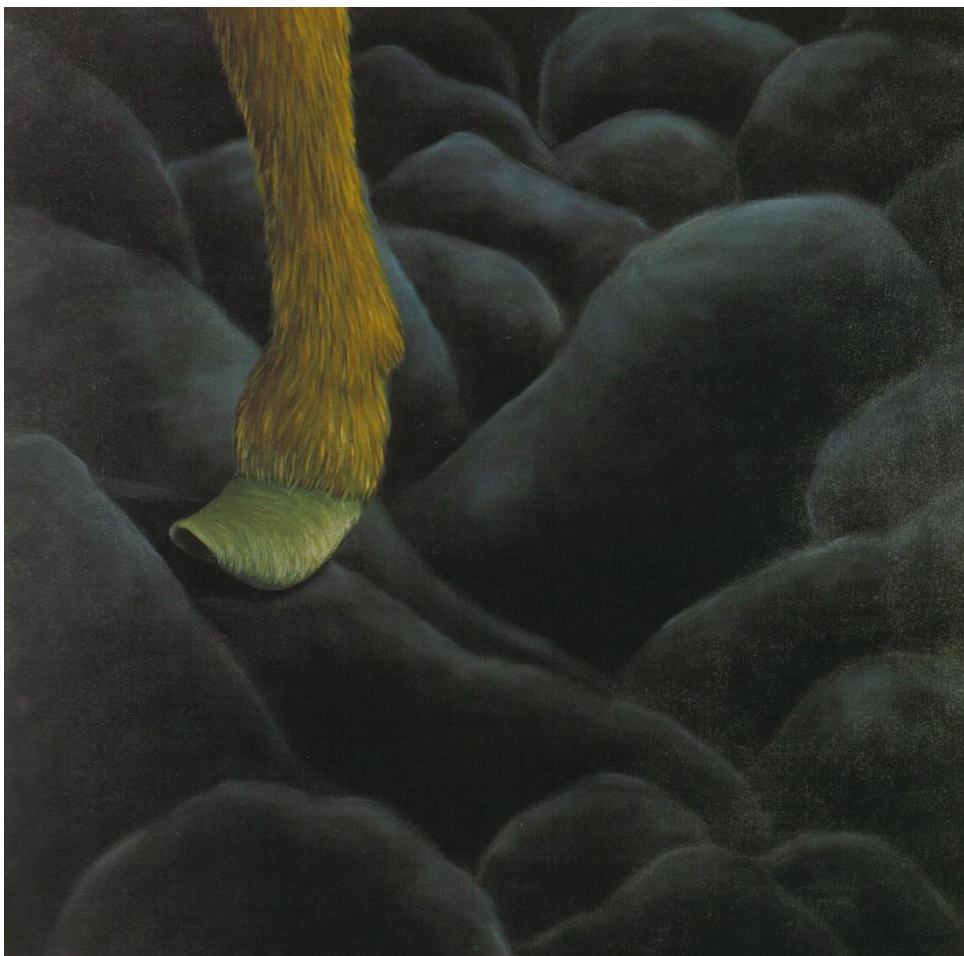
Signed with monogram



JMS, Eviction scene, Aran Islands, 1905



Micky Donnelly, Landscape with Donkey Feet, 1987



Mickey Donnelly, Donkey's Foot, 1998



Collecting Turf from the Bog, Connemara, Co. Galway, Ireland.

Colour Photo by John Hinde, F.R.P.S.

John Hinde postcard



Thatched Cottage, Connemara, Co. Galway, Ireland.

Colour Photo by John Hinde, F.R.P.S.

John Hinde postcard



An Irish Donkey.

Photo: John White, John Hinde Studios.

John Hinde postcard



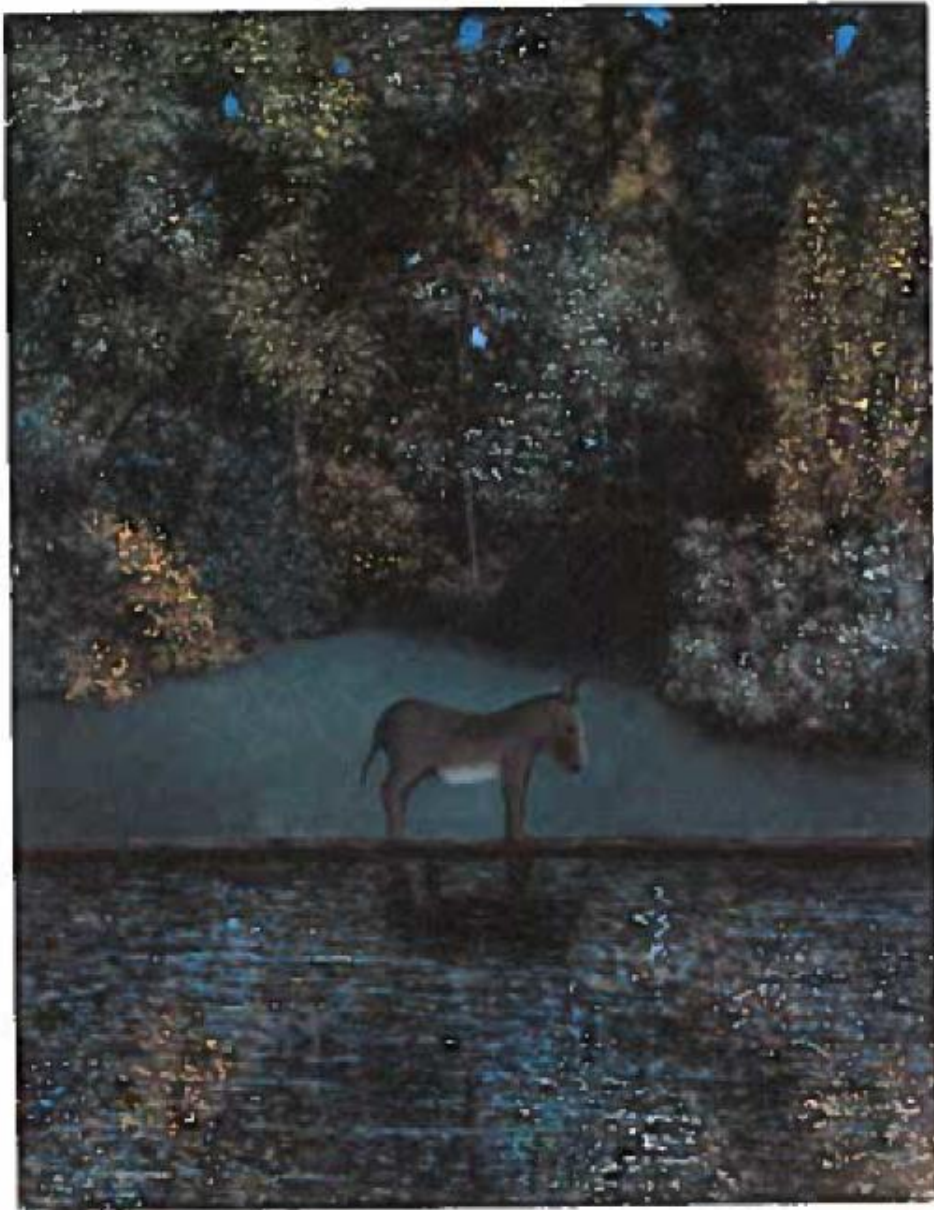
John Hinde postcard



Isabel Nolan, 2014



Dermot Seymour, Bogass, 2001



Stephen McKenna,
Narcissus